

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

A monthly newsletter of Idaho Commerce & Labor

IDAHO
COMMERCE & LABOR

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IN THIS ISSUE...

State Overview

Unemployment Rate	2
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3
Economic Indicators.....	6

Panhandle

Seaport.....

Projected Employment Ops.....	9
-------------------------------	---

Treasure Valley

Per Capita Personal Income	12
----------------------------------	----

Magic Valley.....

Agency Merger.....	16
--------------------	----

Southeast.....

Area Agriculture	18
------------------------	----

Northeast

F.Y.I.....

Census: Idaho Cities	
Population Data.....	21

Glossary

Idaho's Commerce and Labor Agencies Merge

On July 1, 2004, a plan that was put into motion months ago transpired into the official merger between the Idaho Department of Labor and the Idaho Department of Commerce. The new combined agency, **Idaho Commerce & Labor**, formally recognizes a long-standing partnership between the two agencies and links the state's economic, community, and workforce development services.

Idaho's Governor Dirk Kempthorne proposed the merger in his State of the State Address in January 2004 as viable means to improve economic development and job creation in the state. On March 26, 2004, Governor Kempthorne signed into law House Bill 607 at a signing ceremony, merging the Departments of Commerce and Labor.

"This merger will maximize resources, streamline service delivery, and supercharge two executive agencies with common goals. It will formalize a long-standing partnership between the two agencies and link the state's economic, community and workforce development services. Joining the professionals and resources of both departments will strengthen support for Idaho businesses and communities, enhance the department's ability to create higher-wage jobs with benefits, and increase tourism and international trade opportunities," Governor Kempthorne stated at the ceremony. The Department of Labor Director, Roger Madsen, is leading the newly merged department.

Idaho Commerce & Labor continues to perform the core functions that each agency was responsible for prior to the merger. No employees will lose their jobs in either agency. Commerce will continue to create jobs, strengthen communities, and market Idaho, but with access to greater resources and employees. Labor will continue to support the employment and training needs of Idaho businesses, help unemployed citizens find jobs, and support under-employed people in searching to find even better jobs. The merger strengthens support for Idaho businesses and communities enhance the department's ability to create higher-wage jobs with benefits, and increase tourism and international trade opportunities.

In Boise, Idaho Commerce & Labor will continue to serve its customers from two locations – the Main Street office (317 West Main Street, the location of the former of Department of Labor) and the State Street office (700 West State Street, the location of the former Department of Commerce). The 24 Job Service offices located throughout Idaho will remain but be known as Idaho Commerce & Labor offices. They will continue to provide the same services plus more. An example of the additional opportunity for collaboration is in Hailey. The Blaine County Commerce & Labor office welcomed the Hailey Chamber Visitors Information Center on May 12. A conference room in the office was remodeled to house the visitors' centers. This type of activity will continue to occur across the state as the two agencies integrate their services.



State Overview

IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASED TO 4.4 PERCENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April 2004 was 4.4 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from March. April 2004's current seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 1.2 percentage points below the April 2003 rate of 5.6 percent. April's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was the lowest since the Current Population Survey methodology was adopted January 1978. Idaho's April unemployment rate was below the national rate of 5.6 percent, which was down one-tenth of a percentage point from March.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted Civilian Labor Force decreased in April from March, as there was a loss in both the number of people working and not working. The number of unemployed persons decreased by 1,700 to 30,400 from March to April. The number of employed persons decreased by 1,500 to 668,700. The changes in the number of persons unemployed and employed resulted in a Civilian Labor Force of 699,100 in April.

The drop in Idaho's unemployment rate to a record low was somewhat surprising. Although the economy has appeared to be in recovery and there has been some job growth, it still was not enough to meet the demand for work. The unadjusted data indicates that there were 4,500 more people working in April than in March. When the data was seasonally adjusted, there were not as many new jobs as usual from March to April, thus resulting in a drop in the number of people working. However, the data suggests that Idaho's economy is experiencing a temporary slow down rather than an economic downturn. Also, the labor force loss indicates that some of Idaho workers are leaving the labor force or the state because of the lack of job opportunities. Another factor affecting employment was the unusually warm, dry weather in March that allowed construction, logging, and tourism jobs to begin earlier, which was reflected in the March numbers rather than in April, as is normal.

Limited job growth was reported in some sectors. Farmers were involved in soil preparation and planting between rainstorms. Other industries that experienced modest increases in activity were those that are outdoor-oriented and the early spring warm weather allowed increased activity.

The year-over-year comparison offers some positive news. From one year ago, the number of Idahoans employed increased by 16,100 and the number of Idahoans unemployed decreased by 8,000. As a result of these changes, the seasonally adjusted labor force increased 1.2 percent, or 8,000, since April 2003.

County and Area Labor Force Highlights

State Table 1 on page 3 lists the Labor Force components for Idaho's counties, labor market areas, and major cities.

Only one county experienced a double-digit unemployment rate in April. Adams County had an 11.3 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April, unchanged from March 2004 but down one-tenth of a percentage point from April 2003. All of the county's labor force components in April were less than the previous month and year. Even though the number of unemployed was only 174, the persistent, high unemployment rate emphasizes the tough economic times this area has experienced as its forest product based economy has eroded slowly.

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Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates at or below 3.0 percent occurred in ten counties--a record number--during April 2004: Blaine, Bonneville, Butte, and Franklin at 3.0 percent, Lewis at 2.8 percent, Nez Perce at 2.7 percent, Latah at 2.4 percent, Oneida at 2.3 percent, Madison at 1.6 percent, and Owyhee at 1.5 percent.

The Cassia-Minidoka Labor Market Area (LMA) once again had the highest unemployment rate among the state's designated labor market areas. The area's April seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 7.6 percent is up one-tenth of a percentage point from March and two-tenths of a percentage point from last April. The number of persons unemployed is down slightly from both March 2004 and April 2003. The number of employed persons declined by 600 to 900, most of them dropped out of the labor force.

The Bonneville LMA had the lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate during April at 3.4 percent. That area was followed closely by the Magic Valley LMA, which recorded a low 3.5 percent seasonally, followed area closely adjusted unemployment rate. All of the LMAs except Cassia-Minidoka had lower unemployment rates than a year ago, and in some cases the decrease is more than a full percent.

NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

State Table 3 on page 5 provides employment details for the major nonfarm industries in Idaho.

Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 6,400 in April—a 1.1 percent increase from March. For every new job in the *Goods-Producing Industries*, just over two jobs were added in the *Service-Providing Industries*. Comparing April 2004 with April 2003, the *Service-Providing Industries* increased by 11,300 jobs while the *Goods-Producing Industries* declined by 300 jobs. The net over-the-year increase of 11,000 jobs is a 1.9 percent growth rate during this period. The 577,100 jobs total for April 2004 is a record high for the month but is still shy of the record high number of jobs that was achieved in October 2003 when the count was 582,900 jobs.

Construction was once again a bright star in Idaho's job growth. This industry added 2,400 jobs in April from March. Construction activity has been strong in both residential and commercial sectors and the prime road and heavy construction period has yet to begin as the weather is still warming. The construction activity throughout the nation has benefited from low interest rates. In Idaho, however, *Construction* employment also has grown in response to continued population growth, expansion of retail centers, and an increased demand for business/industrial park space.

The *Logging* industry experienced a 28.6 percent over-the-month job loss (-400 jobs). Most of the loss can be attributed to the changing of seasons. As reported last month, the spring thaw came earlier than usual this year and April's rainy weather caused mountain roads to remain too muddy.

State Table 1: April 2004 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	35,818	1,455	4.1	34,362
Nez Perce County	23,234	619	2.7	22,615
Asotin County, WA	12,584	837	6.6	11,748
Boise City MSA	253,501	10,074	4.0	243,427
Ada County	181,529	6,221	3.4	175,308
Canyon County	71,972	3,853	5.4	68,119
Pocatello City MSA*	40,418	1,655	4.1	38,762
Bonneville LMA	85,608	2,933	3.4	82,676
Bingham County	22,688	960	4.2	21,728
Bonneville County	50,858	1,513	3.0	49,345
Butte County	1,576	47	3.0	1,528
Jefferson County	10,486	411	3.9	10,074
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	19,408	1,467	7.6	17,942
Cassia County	9,807	658	6.7	9,149
Minidoka County	9,602	808	8.4	8,793
Idaho-Lewis LMA	7,736	513	6.6	7,223
Idaho County	6,308	473	7.5	5,835
Lewis County	1,428	40	2.8	1,388
Panhandle LMA	94,069	5,496	5.8	88,573
Benewah County	4,264	293	6.9	3,972
Bonner County	18,110	911	5.0	17,198
Boundary County	4,435	198	4.5	4,238
Kootenai County	61,070	3,658	6.0	57,412
Shoshone County	6,190	436	7.0	5,754
Magic Valley LMA	58,452	2,053	3.5	56,399
Gooding County	8,161	256	3.1	7,905
Jerome County	10,888	385	3.5	10,503
Twin Falls County	39,404	1,412	3.6	37,992
Adams County	1,547	174	11.3	1,373
Bear Lake County	3,017	143	4.7	2,873
Blaine County	12,335	373	3.0	11,962
Boise County	2,468	139	5.6	2,328
Camas County	547	31	5.6	516
Caribou County	3,259	227	7.0	3,032
Clark County	711	49	6.8	663
Clearwater County	3,587	267	7.4	3,321
Custer County	1,823	115	6.3	1,708
Elmore County	9,255	490	5.3	8,766
Franklin County	5,528	165	3.0	5,363
Fremont County	4,136	252	6.1	3,884
Gem County	5,487	349	6.4	5,137
Latah County	15,005	363	2.4	14,642
Lemhi County	3,674	213	5.8	3,461
Lincoln County	2,147	94	4.4	2,053
Madison County	11,324	185	1.6	11,139
Oneida County	1,896	44	2.3	1,852
Owyhee County	4,318	65	1.5	4,253
Payette County	9,738	817	8.4	8,920
Power County	3,091	243	7.9	2,848
Teton County	3,897	156	4.0	3,741
Valley County	3,689	257	7.0	3,432
Washington County	4,234	394	9.3	3,840
State of Idaho	699,140	30,415	4.4	668,725
Idaho Cities				
Boise	115,454	4,024	3.5	111,429
Coeur d'Alene	21,803	1,050	4.8	20,754
Idaho Falls	31,079	1,041	3.3	30,038
Lewiston	20,009	486	2.4	19,523
Nampa	22,118	1,313	5.9	20,805
Pocatello	29,455	1,237	4.2	28,217
Twin Falls	20,788	801	3.9	19,987

* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

The number of *Sawmill & Wood Preservation* workers available to process the logs remained the same in April as in May. Mills usually have an inventory of uncut logs that can even out the flow of newly cut timber into the mills as well as maintain some flexibility in mill production. The latter is necessary to adjust to wood products supply, changes in demand, and price swings. Prices for wood products have been high recently but the Idaho mills still offer fewer jobs than a year ago. Some mills have closed, timber harvest opportunities are quite dependent upon Federal logging sales and these are not always market driven, or the mills are not tooled to produce the type of wood products most in demand.

Food Manufacturing and in particular *Fruit & Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Foods Manufacturing* was the one industry in *Manufacturing* with a month-to-month job loss in April. This is a seasonal decline. Food processing plants operate year-round because crops such as potatoes and sugar beets can be stored until processed. Other crops are more perishable, i.e., edible beans and fruits, so they have to be processed as they are harvested. The harvest occurs during the summer and fall and the food processing plants, transportation businesses, and other supporting industries normally will augment their permanent workforce with seasonal help. However, the permanent workforce is smaller than it was a year ago. The loss of 500 jobs is attributed to last year's closure of a potato processing plant and a meat packing plant as well as some general downsizing in the industry.

The primary industry in Idaho's high-tech economic structure is *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing*. This industry led Idaho's impressive employment and economic growth throughout most of the years since the early 80s. The industry's growth trend ended in the first quarter of 2001 and it led, in part, to a general economic downturn since then. As the electronics industry improves and jobs are added, it will also lead Idaho's recovery from the no-growth period of 2002-2003. So far in 2004, the job count has remained in the 16,500 vicinity and April continued this level. However, the over-the-year change provides a more optimistic picture in that employment increased by 600 and the 3.8 percent growth rate was twice that for the state's total growth rate of 1.8 percent from April 2003.

Professional and Business Services contributed the most new jobs in the *Service-Providing Industries*. The addition of 1,400 new jobs in the subsector *Administrative and Support Services* accounted for almost all the growth. The cause was the continued expansion of existing call centers along with the opening of some new ones. Temporary help agencies also added jobs but these usually are dispersed in to the industries in which their customers work. The March to April growth in this industry is repeated in the over-the-year growth of 2,800 making it the fastest growing private sector industry with a job base of 10,000+ during this period.

Besides the high-tech industries, the Idaho industry sector that seemed to be the most adversely affected by the

national recession, the state's economic downturn, and terrorism has been *Leisure and Hospitality*. While this industry has seasonal employment shifts, the over-the-year changes have either been flat or slightly negative. This occurred regardless of continued population and personal income growth. However, for the last three months, the trend has been positive growth at rates slightly greater than total job growth. The over-the-year comparison also shows more jobs this year than last.

In summary, April showed marginal month-to-month changes in most industries with the exception of *Construction* and *Professional and Business Services*, which added more than 1,000 jobs each. Positive over-the-year growth occurred in almost all of the *Service-Providing Industries* while most of the *Manufacturing* industries were below last year's employment levels.

AGRICULTURE

Drought Update

Governor Kempthorne has approved Drought Emergency Declarations for sixteen Idaho counties so far in 2004: Bingham, Jefferson, Oneida, Bannock, Bonneville, Madison, Power, Blaine, Gooding, Custer, Lemhi, Fremont, Caribou, Lincoln, Butte, and Clark.

Although there were several rainy periods during April and May, not enough moisture was received to make much of a difference in the projected summer water supply and demand conditions in these areas.

Hired Workers

The number of hired farm workers increases in the spring and builds until peak times that usually occur in late June and late September. The peak times are those when harvest workers are needed in addition to other seasonal workers who work in more time-extended tasks such as irrigating, crop cultivation, etc. An estimated 31,140 workers were hired in April, up by 20.5 percent from March.

Farm workers have to be paid at least the minimum wage, \$5.15 per hour, but most general crop and farm activity wages are \$6.50 to \$7.50 per hour. Farm equipment operators and truck drivers will be paid \$8.00 to \$10.00 per hour. Many irrigation pipe movers are paid by-the-pipe at \$0.13 - \$0.17 per pipe. The rates vary according to the size and type of pipe as well as the geographical location. The average wage of food (non-meat and dairy) processing production workers ranges from \$8.90 to \$10.25 per hour depending the type of job.

The labor needs of Idaho agricultural producers are met in a variety of ways, which includes long hours put in by the producer him/herself and family members. Farms with livestock, stored produce, significant farm equipment, or large acreages typically hire year-round workers. Some seasonal tasks such as irrigating continue throughout the growing season, and seasonal workers are hired for the

Continued on page 27

State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

% Change From

BY PLACE OF WORK	April 2004*	Mar 2004	April 2003	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	577,100	570,700	566,100	1.1	1.9
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	98,800	96,800	99,100	2.1	-0.3
Natural Resources & Mining	2,700	3,100	2,700	-12.9	0.0
Logging	1,000	1,400	1,000	-28.6	0.0
Mining	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Metal Ore Mining	400	400	500	0.0	-20.0
Construction	36,000	33,600	34,600	7.1	4.0
Manufacturing	60,100	60,100	61,800	0.0	-2.8
Durable Goods	36,900	36,800	38,100	0.3	-3.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	6,900	6,900	7,300	0.0	-5.5
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,800	2,800	3,000	0.0	-6.7
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	3,100	0.0	-6.5
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,400	3,400	3,500	0.0	-2.9
Machinery Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,700	0.0	-3.7
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	16,600	16,500	16,000	0.6	3.8
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,300	0.0	-4.3
Other Durable Goods	5,200	5,200	6,300	0.0	-17.5
Nondurable Goods	23,200	23,300	23,700	-0.4	-2.1
Food Manufacturing	15,400	15,600	15,600	-1.3	-1.3
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,100	7,300	7,600	-2.7	-6.6
Paper Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Printing & Related Support Activities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Other Nondurable Goods	2,400	2,300	2,500	4.3	-4.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	478,300	473,900	467,000	0.9	2.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	115,400	114,300	114,300	1.0	1.0
Trade	96,700	95,700	96,100	1.0	0.6
Wholesale Trade	24,300	24,100	24,900	0.8	-2.4
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	11,100	11,000	11,600	0.9	-4.3
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,000	10,900	11,400	0.9	-3.5
Retail Trade	72,400	71,600	71,200	1.1	1.7
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10,900	10,700	10,700	1.9	1.9
Building Material and Garden Equipment	7,800	7,400	7,800	5.4	0.0
Food & Beverage Stores	12,300	12,200	12,200	0.8	0.8
General Merchandise Stores	14,900	14,800	14,500	0.7	2.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	18,700	18,600	18,200	0.5	2.7
Utilities	1,900	1,800	1,900	5.6	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	16,800	16,800	16,300	0.0	3.1
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	8,200	8,200	7,900	0.0	3.8
Information	9,200	9,200	9,200	0.0	0.0
Telecommunications	3,300	3,300	3,100	0.0	6.5
Financial Activities	27,200	27,000	26,500	0.7	2.6
Finance & Insurance	20,500	20,400	19,800	0.5	3.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6,700	6,600	6,700	1.5	0.0
Professional & Business Services	72,700	71,100	69,400	2.3	4.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	29,600	29,500	29,000	0.3	2.1
Scientific Research & Development	7,300	7,300	7,300	0.0	0.0
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,200	7,300	7,400	-1.4	-2.7
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	35,900	34,300	33,000	4.7	8.8
Administrative & Support Services	34,700	33,300	31,900	4.2	8.8
Educational & Health Services	64,900	64,700	62,200	0.3	4.3
Educational Services	7,800	7,800	7,400	0.0	5.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	57,100	56,900	54,800	0.4	4.2
Hospitals	13,500	13,500	13,100	0.0	3.1
Leisure & Hospitality	53,700	52,800	52,900	1.7	1.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	7,500	7,100	7,300	5.6	2.7
Accommodation & Food Services	46,200	45,700	45,600	1.1	1.3
Accommodation	7,300	7,400	7,300	-1.4	0.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	38,900	38,300	38,300	1.6	1.6
Other Services	18,300	18,200	18,100	0.5	1.1
Total Government	116,900	116,600	114,400	0.3	2.2
Federal Government	12,900	12,800	12,900	0.8	0.0
State & Local Government	104,000	103,800	101,500	0.2	2.5
State Government	31,600	31,600	29,500	0.0	7.1
State Government Education	15,100	15,100	14,500	0.0	4.1
State Government Administration	16,500	16,500	15,000	0.0	10.0
Local Government	72,400	72,200	72,000	0.3	0.6
Local Government Education	36,900	37,100	37,800	-0.5	-2.4
Local Government Administration	32,500	32,100	31,400	1.2	3.5
Local Government Tribes	3,000	3,000	2,800	0.0	7.1

*Preliminary Estimate

** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State Table 3: Economic Indicators

	April 2004	Mar 2004	April 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	699,100	702,300	691,100	-0.5	1.2
Unemployment	30,400	32,100	38,500	-5.3	-21.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.6	5.6		
Total Employment	668,700	670,200	652,600	-0.2	2.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	695,300	696,600	687,200	-0.2	1.2
Unemployment	32,900	38,700	40,900	-15.0	-19.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	5.6	6.0		
Total Employment	662,400	657,900	646,300	0.7	2.5
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.6	5.7	6.0		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	183.5	182.9	179.8	0.3	2.1
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	188.0	187.4	183.8	0.3	2.3
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	41,240	35,950	40,400	14.7	2.1
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,010	0.0	8.1
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	31,140	25,850	31,030	20.5	0.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	8,132	9,819	13,380	-17.2	-39.2
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	68,418	115,868	108,202	-41.0	-36.8
Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾					
Weeks Compensated	58,367	100,335	112,330	-41.8	-48.0
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$12,880,818	\$22,469,817	\$25,186,306	-42.7	-48.9
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$220.69	\$223.95	\$224.22	-1.5	-1.6
Covered Employers	42,299	42,026	40,987	0.6	3.2
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$202,940,325	\$215,245,813	\$215,580,799	-5.7	-5.9

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Unusually warm dry weather, along with a growing economy, pushed down the Panhandle's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from 6.1 percent in March to 5.8 percent in April. Construction, logging, and the tourism industry all employed more people in April than they normally do because of the unusually mild weather.

Economic growth boosted *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* 3.2 percent between April 2003 and April 2004. Almost every sector of the region's economy showed growth, including the logging, mining, and manufacturing industries that have struggled since 2001. In April, *Construction* employment rose 7.2 percent above last year's astounding level, as good weather, population growth, large commercial development projects, and low mortgage rates all benefited the construction industry. The closure of the 140-employee Louisiana-Pacific mill in Bonners Ferry and the layoff of 67 employees from Stimson Lumber in Coeur d'Alene decreased *Wood Products Manufacturing* employment 6.0 percent over the 12-month period. Fortunately, a variety of other manufacturing operations added jobs, helping *Manufacturing* grow 0.4 percent. (See Panhandle Table 1 for details.)

Other big winners between April 2003 and April 2004 were *Information*, gaining about 200 jobs from the opening of the Verizon directory assistance center in Coeur d'Alene; *Financial Activities*, benefiting from the growing number of bank branches and the current real estate boom; *Health Care*, growing 6.5 percent from 4,890 jobs to 5,210 jobs; *Leisure & Hospitality*, hosting significantly more tourists, as well as feeding and entertaining more Panhandle residents with rising incomes; *Retail Trade*, growing again after losing 190 jobs between 2000 and 2003; and *Government Administration*, experiencing employment growth mostly because of the 110 jobs added by the Panhandle's five community hospitals. *Professional & Business Services* nearly made up the 600 call center jobs it lost between April 2003 and January 2004, because of the recovery of call centers and growth of employment agencies since February.

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	April 2004*	Mar 2004	April 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	94,070	93,660	91,490	0.4	2.8
Unemployed	5,500	5,750	6,920	-4.3	-20.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	6.1	7.6		
Total Employment	88,570	87,910	84,570	0.8	4.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	93,470	92,630	91,230	0.9	2.5
Unemployed	6,690	7,970	8,380	-16.1	-20.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	8.6	9.2		
Total Employment	86,780	84,660	82,850	2.5	4.7
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	69,610	68,170	67,440	2.1	3.2
Goods-Producing Industries	12,820	12,600	12,380	1.7	3.6
Natural Resources & Mining	1,060	1,280	960	-17.2	10.4
Construction	4,640	4,230	4,330	9.7	7.2
Manufacturing	7,120	7,090	7,090	0.4	0.4
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,670	2,680	2,840	-0.4	-6.0
Other Manufacturing	4,450	4,410	4,250	0.9	4.7
Service-Providing Industries	56,790	55,570	55,060	2.2	3.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	13,590	13,240	13,090	2.6	3.8
Wholesale Trade	1,370	1,320	1,370	3.8	0.0
Retail Trade	10,460	10,130	10,040	3.3	4.2
Utilities	390	390	380	0.0	2.6
Transportation & Warehousing	1,370	1,400	1,300	-2.1	5.4
Information	1,320	1,320	1,100	0.0	20.0
Financial Activities	2,980	2,940	2,810	1.4	6.0
Professional & Business Services	6,350	6,030	6,450	5.3	-1.6
Educational & Health Services	6,980	6,920	6,750	0.9	3.4
Leisure & Hospitality	8,340	7,970	7,980	4.6	4.5
Other Services	2,260	2,210	2,240	2.3	0.9
Government Education	5,340	5,340	5,240	0.0	1.9
Government Administration	8,410	8,400	8,220	0.1	2.3
Government Tribes	1,220	1,200	1,180	1.7	3.4

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Benewah County

- Plummer in Benewah County is the western trailhead of the 72-mile Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes that officially opened June 5. The eastern trailhead is Mullan. The trail's eastern end opened to walkers and bicyclists in the fall of 2003. The last projects to be completed were reconstruction of the historic Chatcolet railroad swinging bridge on the south end of Lake Coeur d'Alene and construction of the trail through Heyburn State Park to Plummer. Union Pacific (UP) Railroad paid \$8.8 million for the trail's construction to clean up heavy-metal mining wastes spread along railroad tracks that carried materials out of Shoshone County's silver mines from 1886 to 1993. In addition to paying for the trail's construction, which began in 2000, UP established a \$2.6 million fund to maintain the trail. Each of the communities on the spectacularly beautiful trail—Mullan, Wallace, Osburn, Kellogg, Smelterville, Harri-

son, and Plummer—held parties to celebrate the trail’s contributions to their quality of life, as well as the bottom lines of tourist-related businesses.

Although Harrison and Worley are located in Kootenai County, they are closely tied to the St. Maries and Plummer areas, respectively. Information about the Coeur d’Alene tribe’s casino in Worley and new stores in Harrison are included in the Kootenai County section below, but also contribute to rising optimism in Benewah County.

Bonner County

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently gave Unicep Packaging, the Sandpoint manufacturer of one-dose applicators for medications and cosmetics, an \$80,000 research grant to develop wand-like applicators. Unicep will use the grant to design and test a new machine for producing such applicators. Unicep employs about 100 people. The new line will result in more jobs in the future. Two years ago, Unicep employed 35 people.
- Just Burgers—a 50s style drive-in restaurant—opened in early May, just before Sandpoint’s popular Lost in the 50s celebration. Owned by Rob Blair, the drive-in features burgers, homemade onion rings and French fries, and malts and shakes made from hand-scooped ice cream. It is located at 2009 East Superior, inside the Waterfront Texaco at the north end of the Long Bridge.

Boundary County

- Oscar and Shirley Anderson own Idaho Granite Works on Highland Flats near Bonners Ferry. The Andersons and five employees do custom work on granite quarried on the property. They fabricate countertops, signs, pillars, monuments, benches, garden stones, and furniture, which have attracted attention of builders in Idaho and Montana.

Kootenai County

- U.S. Bank announced in May that it plans to build a service center in the Coeur d’Alene area, which will create up to 500 new jobs over the next few years. It expects to break ground this summer on a \$15 million, 60,000-square-foot building in the Mill River development between Seltice Way and the Spokane River near Huetter. When the building is completed in early 2005, it will become U.S. Bank’s second retail payments solution center. The first is in Fargo, North Dakota. A second center is needed because of strong sales growth. The new center will assist small businesses and consumers with credit and debit card accounts. It also will provide customer service for affinity programs, which are partnerships between banks and retailers that lead to customer rewards such as free airline miles with purchases. Hiring for the retail payments solution center will begin in late 2004 or early 2005. U.S. Bank chose Coeur d’Alene among 3,000 communities. Jobs Plus, the nonprofit economic development organization serving Kootenai County, worked hard to convince U.S. Bank that the county was the right choice. Rick Barton, region president of U.S. Bank in North Idaho/Palouse, said, “The pro-business environment in Coeur d’Alene, combined with a skilled and available labor force, access to workforce training, and higher education, and U.S. Bank’s existing presence in the market, were key factors in our decision to build the call center here.”

- The Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s casino, along U.S. Highway 95 near Worley, recently completed a \$15 million expansion and remodel. The first phase, completed in November, doubled the number of guest rooms in the casino’s hotel. With 202 guest rooms, the hotel now can host conventions and conferences. The second phase expanded the gaming area and made several changes for diners. Workers renovated the High Mountain Buffet, adding 100 seats; opened the Sweetgrass Café; built the Nighthawk Lounge; and remodeled the High Mountain Steakhouse, the casino’s fine-dining restaurant. Last August, the casino opened the Circling Raven golf course. *Golf* magazine declared it one of the top 10 new golf courses in 2003. At its summer peak, the casino, including the hotel and golf course, employs 800 people—twice as many as it employed in 2000. In 1993, the casino opened as a bingo hall with fewer than 100 employees. The casino’s growth has changed Worley (pop. 225) from a job-starved area into an area that buses workers in from the Spokane and Coeur d’Alene areas.
- In addition to the casino employment in Kootenai County, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe employs more than 400 people at its headquarters, medical center, farms, retail operations, and schools in Benewah County. The Coeur d’Alene Reservation covers most of western Benewah County and part of southern Kootenai County.
- Two new stores recently opened in Harrison, giving more evidence of its revitalization. Vicki Hedlund recently opened the Crows Feet gift shop, which sells high-end gardening tools, scented candles, gourmet sauces, and other delights. The Crows Feet is located near the Pedal Pusher bicycle shop, which is especially busy because of the nearby Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes. The trail brings many bicyclists to town and has contributed to an increase in local resident bicyclists. On Memorial Day, Ron Wilson opened the Creamery Fudge Factory in downtown Harrison in a building that had been vacant for two decades. The Fudge Factory, which sells local arts and crafts in addition to candy, is near the Landing, the restaurant Wilson opened earlier this year in the shuttered Rose Café. It’s just down the street from the Creamery ice cream shop, also owned by Wilson. More good things are headed Harrison’s way; the town of 270 residents on the shore of Lake Coeur d’Alene will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Sunset* magazine.

Shoshone County

- David and Bonnie DeRoos renovated and opened a bar in downtown Wallace this spring. Connie’s on Cedar features a non-smoking bar, a gallery displaying works by local artists, and a beer garden. The couple also purchased the former Eagles building down the street, opening it as a vintage gaming area, complete with arcade and pinball games.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in April to 4.1 percent, up four-tenths of a percentage point from March's rate of 3.5 percent as shown in Seaport Table 1. In April 2003 the rate was 5.1 percent. Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in April increased by 260 from March 2004, but there was a decrease of 620 jobs from April 2003. The increase from last month was the result of increases in *Educational & Health Services* employment. In year-over-year comparisons a significant number of jobs have been lost in *Trade*. No stores have closed, but existing businesses are laying off one to two employees to cut costs. Although *Trade* has lost the most jobs from last year, job losses occurred in almost all industries over the year.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Projected Employment Opportunities

Through interviews and research, Idaho Commerce & Labor has identified specific jobs as future employment opportunities. These include occupations that are the fastest growing, have high employment, or are in high demand. These are also jobs for which employers are unable to find qualified applicants and include jobs emerging from new business in the region. A list of these projected employment opportunities are listed in Seaport Table 2 on page 27. They are listed alphabetically, not according to a ranking order. An evaluation of a broader list of 538 occupations can be found at the Idaho Department of Labor home page: <http://www.jobservice.ws/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Occprj>

AREA DEVELOPMENTS Clearwater County

- The City of Orofino will use a \$47,588 Gem Community Grant from the Idaho Commerce & Labor for an economic development project that will add 15-20 jobs to the local economy. The funds will be matched with \$146,242 in local dol-

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	April 2004*	Mar 2004	April 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,820	35,540	36,590	0.8	-2.1
Unemployment	1,460	1,230	1,860	18.7	-21.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	3.5	5.1		
Total Employment	34,360	34,310	34,730	0.1	-1.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,830	35,710	36,570	0.3	-2.0
Unemployment	1,460	1,500	1,850	-2.7	-21.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.2	5.1		
Total Employment	34,370	34,210	34,720	0.5	-1.0
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	25,940	25,680	26,560	1.0	-2.3
Goods-Producing Industries	4,420	4,350	4,450	1.6	-0.7
Natural Resources & Mining	210	190	170	10.5	23.5
Construction	1,060	990	1,130	7.1	-6.2
Manufacturing	3,150	3,170	3,150	-0.6	0.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	550	560	540	-1.8	1.9
Food Manufacturing	50	60	100	-16.7	-50.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,200	1,220	1,190	-1.6	0.8
Other Manufacturing	1,350	1,330	1,320	1.5	2.3
Service-Providing Industries	21,520	21,330	22,110	0.9	-2.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,280	5,410	5,490	-2.4	-3.8
Wholesale Trade	590	590	640	0.0	-7.8
Retail Trade	3,450	3,570	3,580	-3.4	-3.6
Utilities	90	80	80	12.5	12.5
Transportation & Warehousing	1,150	1,170	1,190	-1.7	-3.4
Information	350	350	380	0.0	-7.9
Financial Activities	1,830	1,840	1,860	-0.5	-1.6
Professional & Business Services	1,350	1,280	1,500	5.5	-10.0
Education & Health Services	4,030	3,910	3,980	3.1	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality	2,470	2,470	2,540	0.0	-2.8
Other Services	1,060	1,080	1,090	-1.9	-2.8
Government Education	2,380	2,260	2,500	5.3	-4.8
Government Administration	1,900	1,860	1,970	2.2	-3.6
Government Tribes	870	870	800	0.0	8.8

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

lars and used for engineering and construction expenses associated with the development of a new hotel in Orofino. The Gem Community Grant Program is part of Governor Dirk Kempthorne's Rural Idaho Initiative. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for small rural economic development projects that would otherwise fall through the cracks. The project in Orofino will extend City water infrastructure to the property line and enable private developers to build a Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Orofino. The 30,000- to 35,000-square-foot facility will be a 49-unit hotel with conference center facilities. According to the feasibility study, 4.5 million travelers cross U.S. Highway 12 each year, 5.0 percent of these travelers

identify Orofino as their destination. New revenue generated from local property tax will be a direct economic impact of the new Best Western hotel facility in Orofino. In addition, the hotel will provide some new jobs.

Idaho & Lewis Counties

- A groundbreaking was held in June for a new steakhouse to be constructed at the former Crossroads Cafe site in Grangeville. Local real estate agent Becky Robinson and her parents, Ernie and Judy Robinson, purchased the land several months ago and plans to open Ernie's Steak House, along with a full bar to be named The 41 Club. Among the specialties will be beef, which will come from stock raised by the Robinson family from their ranches on the Salmon River. This new restaurant and bar is tentatively set for a fall opening.

Latah County

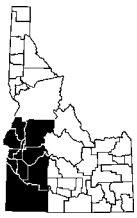
- The largest scientific conference in the state's history will take place next year at the University of Idaho (UI). The international Geochemical Society's V.M. Goldschmidt Conference is expected to bring as many as 2,000 scientists and professionals to the local community. "This will put the UI and WSU (Washington State University) on the international map," UI geochemist Mickey Gunter said. "I don't think people here know what a unique setting this is. There are a lot of people who would love to come to a place like the Palouse." Toulouse, France; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Davos, Switzerland are just a few of the cities where the Goldschmidt Conference has taken place. Typical venues for the conference include Oxford University, Harvard University, and Virginia Tech. "Landing this conference is a big deal for the UI and WSU," Gunter said. "It will really bring a spotlight to the Palouse." Moscow Chamber of Commerce President Paul Kimmell said the business community would receive huge financial gains from a conference as large as the Goldschmidt. "This will bring more than 1,000 professionals to our community, using our hotels, restaurants, and other services," he said. "It's good for the community and the university."
- Despite being launched during tough economic times, the Palouse Discovery Science Center (PDSC) is up, running, and gaining traction financially. Board members report that funding from two major foundations and enrollment of some 1,000 local members are strong signs of health for the center. The PDSC opened its doors in October in space donated by Ed and Mary Schweitzer beside the Schweitzer Engineering complex on the northern edge of Pullman. "The center has brought in more than \$400,000 in grant money, including funds from the Toyota Foundation and the William and

Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant money has paid for exhibit development and technology-related programs for students.

Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- This spring has brought increased business to local vendors who serve the six cruise ships that dock at the Port of Clarkston. April marked the height of the busiest spring season ever for cruise boat passengers, says Rick Davis, manager of the Port of Clarkston. More than 1,900 passengers were on vessels that docked at the Port of Clarkston in April, more than twice the number for the same month a year ago. "The Lewiston-Clarkston Valley has been discovered by the cruise ships," Davis says. "They like to come here and go up to Hells Canyon and they like coming through the dams. It's just a very interesting trip." The majority of the passengers are in their 70s and 80s, Davis says. Many already have hit the more well-known cruise destinations such as Mexico or the Caribbean and are seeking something different, Davis says. In addition to the 163-passenger Queen of the West, the fleet includes the pioneers of the Portland-to-Clarkston run, the Sea Lion and Sea Bird, which have a combined capacity of 140. Those boats were the first to visit Clarkston and have been on the route for 19 years, Davis says. Then there were the newcomers, the Empress of the North, the biggest of the ships with a capacity of 235 passengers, and two other smaller boats, Glacier Bay and the Spirit of Discovery, which together can carry up to 160 passengers. While Hells Canyon tour boat operators are the most obvious beneficiaries of the business, Davis says, the boats use other services too. The Empress of the North takes on 15,000 gallons of fuel each time it's docked here, Davis says. Albertsons, Costco, taxi companies, and even linen cleaning services also do business with the tour boats, Davis says.

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TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for April 2004 was 4.0 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was two-tenths of a percentage point below the March 2004 rate of 4.2 percent and 1.7 percentage point below the April 2003 rate of 5.7 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons increased by 1,800, or 0.7 percent, from March 2004 while the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 600 individuals, or 5.6 percent. The increasing number of persons employed and the decreasing number of persons unemployed created an overall increase of 1,200 individuals, or 0.5 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force*, from March 2004. Year-over-year, the number of employed persons increased by 9,400, or 4.0 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 4,000 individuals or 28.4 percent, creating a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 5,400 individuals,

Treasure Valley Table 2: April 2004
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,529	6,221	3.4	175,308
Adams	1,547	174	11.3	1,373
Boise	2,468	139	5.6	2,328
Canyon	71,972	3,853	5.4	68,119
Elmore	9,255	490	5.3	8,766
Gem	5,487	349	6.4	5,137
Owyhee	4,318	65	1.5	4,253
Payette	9,738	817	8.4	8,920
Valley	3,689	257	7.0	3,432
Washington	4,234	394	9.3	3,840
Statewide	699,140	30,415	4.4	668,725

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon Counties

	April 2004*	Mar 2004	April 2003	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	253,500	252,300	248,100	0.5	2.2
Unemployment	10,100	10,700	14,100	-5.6	-28.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.2	5.7		
Total Employment	243,400	241,600	234,000	0.7	4.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	252,700	252,300	247,000	0.2	2.3
Unemployment	10,300	11,600	14,000	-11.2	-26.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4	5	6		
Total Employment	242,400	240,700	233,000	0.7	4.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	236,100	233,800	228,100	1.0	3.5
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	46,500	45,800	44,700	1.5	4.0
Natural Resources & Construction	16,300	15,700	15,100	3.8	7.9
Manufacturing	30,200	30,100	29,600	0.3	2.0
Durable Goods	23,300	23,200	22,500	0.4	3.6
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,800	0.0	-11.1
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
Machinery Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,900	14,800	14,300	0.7	4.2
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,700	0.0	-11.8
Other Durable Goods	2,900	2,900	2,100	0.0	38.1
Nondurable Goods	6,900	6,900	7,100	0.0	-2.8
Food Manufacturing	5,100	5,100	5,400	0.0	-5.6
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	800	0.0	-12.5
Other Nondurable Goods	1,100	1,100	900	0.0	22.2
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	189,600	188,000	183,400	0.9	3.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	44,800	44,500	43,700	0.7	2.5
Trade	37,800	37,500	36,700	0.8	3.0
Wholesale Trade	9,900	9,800	10,100	1.0	-2.0
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,300	6,100	6,400	3.3	-1.6
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,800	2,900	0.0	-3.4
Retail Trade	27,900	27,700	26,600	0.7	4.9
Food & Beverage Stores	4,300	4,300	4,100	0.0	4.9
General Merchandise Stores	6,200	6,000	5,700	3.3	8.8
All Other Retail Trade	17,400	17,400	16,800	0.0	3.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0	0.0
Utilities	600	600	600	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	6,400	6,400	6,400	0.0	0.0
Information	4,100	4,000	3,900	2.5	5.1
Telecommunications	1,500	1,500	1,400	0.0	7.1
Financial Activities	12,800	12,700	12,300	0.8	4.1
Finance & Insurance	9,400	9,300	9,100	1.1	3.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,400	3,400	3,200	0.0	6.3
Professional & Business Services	33,600	33,000	31,500	1.8	6.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	10,700	10,700	10,300	0.0	3.9
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,500	5,500	5,600	0.0	-1.8
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	17,400	16,800	15,600	3.6	11.5
Educational & Health Services	30,300	30,200	28,300	0.3	7.1
Educational Services	2,400	2,700	2,500	-11.1	-4.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	27,900	27,500	25,800	1.5	8.1
Hospitals	9,900	9,700	9,100	2.1	8.8
Leisure & Hospitality	20,800	20,400	20,000	2.0	4.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,900	2,700	2,700	7.4	7.4
Accommodation & Food Services	17,900	17,700	17,300	1.1	3.5
Accommodation	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	16,000	15,800	15,400	1.3	3.9
Other Services	6,800	6,700	6,700	1.5	1.5
Total Government	36,400	36,500	37,000	-0.3	-1.6
Federal Government	5,600	5,500	5,300	1.8	5.7
State & Local Government	30,800	31,000	31,700	-0.6	-2.8
State Government	13,500	13,600	13,900	-0.7	-2.9
State Government Education	4,100	4,100	4,300	0.0	-4.7
State Government Administration	9,400	9,500	9,600	-1.1	-2.1
Local Government	17,300	17,400	17,800	-0.6	-2.8
Local Government Education	10,900	11,000	10,600	-0.9	2.8
Local Government Administration	6,400	6,400	7,200	0.0	-11.1

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

or 2.2 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from April 2003. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for April 2004 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2.

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 2,300 jobs or 1.0 percent in April 2004, while year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* experienced a gain of 8,000 jobs or 3.5 percent. Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 700 jobs with job increases noted in *Natural Resources, Mining & Construction* (600 jobs) and *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (100 jobs) while all other *Goods-Producing Industries* remained steady from last month. Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 1,800 jobs with job increases noted in *Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction* (1,200 jobs), *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (600 jobs), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (800 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (200 jobs) while job losses were noted in *Wood Product Manufacturing* (-200 jobs), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Machinery Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (-200 jobs), *Food Product Manufacturing* (-300 jobs), and *Printing & Related Support Activities* (-100 jobs). The news continues to be generally good for the MSA's *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* industry in that there has been a job gain every month since September 2003.

In *Service-Providing Industries*, jobs gained outweighed jobs lost; 1,600 jobs were gained in the Boise City MSA from March to April 2004. Job gains were experienced in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (200 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (200 jobs), *Information Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (100 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (600 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (400 jobs) including *Hospitals* (200 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (200 jobs), *Food Service & Drinking Places* (200 jobs), *Other Services* (100 jobs), and *Federal Government* (100 jobs). Job losses occurred in *Educational Services* (-300 jobs), *State Government Administration* (-100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (-100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Service-Providing Industries* gained 6,200 jobs or 3.4 per-

cent. Job gains were noted in *Food & Beverage Stores* (200 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (500 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (600 jobs), *Information Services* (200 jobs) including *Telecommunications Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (300 jobs), *Real Estate & Rental & Leasing Services* (200 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (400 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (1,800 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (2,100 jobs) including *Hospitals* (800 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (200 jobs), *Food Service & Drinking Places* (600 jobs), *Other Services* (100 jobs), *Federal Government* (300 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (300 jobs). Job losses were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100 jobs), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100 jobs), *Management of Companies & Enterprise Services* (-100 jobs), *Educational Services* (-100 jobs), *State Government Education* (-200 jobs), *State Government Administration* (-200 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (-800 jobs).

SPECIAL TOPIC: Per Capita Personal Income Update

The Bureau of Economic Analysis released Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) figures in May. Treasure Valley Table 3 shows the changes in PCPI for all counties in Southwest Idaho. Blaine County in South Central Idaho is ranked number one, followed by Ada and Valley Counties. In terms of actual growth, Elmore County had the largest percentage increase from 2001 to 2002—6.6 percent—while Valley County showed the largest dollar in-

Treasure Valley Table 3: Per Capita Personal Income

County/Area	2001	2002	change	% change	State rank
Ada County	\$ 33,771	\$ 34,072	\$ 301	0.9	2
Adams County	22,546	23,189	643	2.9	17
Boise County	21,650	22,309	659	3.0	21
Canyon County	19,747	19,432	(315)	-1.6	41
Elmore County	20,768	22,138	1,370	6.6	23
Gem County	19,922	19,753	(169)	-0.8	38
Owyhee County	19,342	19,799	457	2.4	37
Payette County	19,727	20,016	289	1.5	36
Valley County	28,717	30,351	1,634	5.7	3
Washington County	19,480	20,281	801	4.1	34
Boise City MSA	28,811	28,878	67	0.2	
State of Idaho	24,947	25,476	529	2.1	
United States	30,527	30,906	379	1.2	

crease, which was \$1,634. The PCPI and state ranking among all counties in Southwest Idaho are as follows: Ada County (2) increased \$301 to a PCPI of \$34,072; Adams County (17) increased \$643 to a PCPI of \$23,189; Boise County (21) increased \$659 to a PCPI of \$22,309; Canyon County (41) decreased \$315 to a PCPI of \$19,432; Elmore County (23) increased \$1,370 to a PCPI of \$22,138; Gem County (38) decreased \$169 to a PCPI of \$19,753; Owyhee County (37) increased \$457 to a PCPI of \$19,799; Payette County (36) increased \$289 to a PCPI of \$20,016; Valley County (3) increased \$1,634 to a PCPI of \$30,351; and Washington County (34) increased \$801 to a PCPI of \$20,281. The Boise City MSA had an increase of \$67 from 2001 to a 2002 PCPI of 28,878; the State of Idaho had an increase of \$599 from 2001 to a 2002 PCPI of \$25,476; and the United States increased \$379 to a PCPI of \$30,906 in 2002. While the MSA's PCPI is 113.4 percent of the state's, it is 93.4 percent of the nation's Per Capita Personal Income.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- SCP Global Technology recently announced the closure of its Germany manufacturing facility; the company will consolidate all of its manufacturing operations at its Boise facility. The closure in Germany will not bring additional jobs to Boise. SCP's Boise facility has the ability to more than triple its current manufacturing capacity, when needed.
- More than 1,500 students graduated from Boise State University (BSU) in May. Approximately 1,100 graduates attended the ceremony. The spring 2004 graduating class was the largest in BSU's history.
- A new 21,000-square-foot multi-tenant retail building is planned for the northeast corner of Cole Road and Denton Street near the Boise Towne Square, next to the I-84 connector off-ramp in Boise. Construction of Towne Square Plaza is expected to begin in November with completion set for February 2005.
- Six one-story office buildings are currently planned for 2.15 acres of unused farmland on South Five Mile Road, north of Victory. The development will accommodate a combined 17,280-square feet of professional office space. Construction of the \$1.2 million project, if approved by Ada County Commissioners, will start in July.
- Fred Meyer announced plans to transfer its eastern regional office from Salt Lake City to Boise in June. The regional office, one of six regional headquarters, will oversee 10 Fred Meyer stores in Idaho as well as several stores in eastern Washington.
- A new senior community and professional office development is currently being planned for south Meridian. Spring Creek Senior Living Community and Spring Creek Professional Office Park will be located on 9.5 acres of land bordered by Idaho 69 to the west, the Meridian Greens subdivision to the east, and Calderwood Road to the north. Construction of the senior facilities, including an assisted-living center and an Alzheimer's disease care building is scheduled to start in fall 2004.
- ZiLOG's planned closure of its Nampa semiconductor plant is still set for June, putting about 150 people out of work. ZiLOG employees will be offered severance packages and bonus incentives. The company is based in San Jose, California, and will outsource its semiconductor manufacturing to a company in Lubbock, Texas.
- YMCA held a groundbreaking for its new facility in Caldwell in early May. The groundbreaking celebration included music, traditional Mexican dance, and skydivers at its location near Brothers Park. More than 600 people attended the Caldwell YMCA groundbreaking. Construction has already started on the \$13.5 million center, which is scheduled to open in September 2005.
- Other recent business happenings in the Boise City MSA includes: Continental Airlines announced plans to offer two daily flights between Boise and Houston starting in July; Ada County completed its \$6.8 million county jail expansion, adding 308 new beds to the facility; Fastenal, a marketer of industrial and construction supplies, moved from its location on Airport Way to a new building on the east side of Orchard Street, north of I-84; Ann Taylor Loft and Function Clothing will open retail outlets in the BoDo development in downtown Boise; Bidstoboxes.com, which helps small businesses

utilize the Internet to maximize the value of excess assets and inventories, opened at 930 North Cole Road in Boise; Rampage Gaming opened a new Treasure Valley gaming center on Broadway Avenue, near Boise Avenue in Boise; Peter Schott sold Schott's Rodizio Grille to Jim Borton Jr., who will rename the restaurant Borton's Steaks, Seafood and Spirits and change the concept of the restaurant, located in the Idanha Hotel in downtown Boise; Black Door Designs opened an office at 6332 Gateway in Boise; EmergeCore Networks expanded into new facilities in the Boise Research Center in northwest Boise; Nick's Shoe Store closed its business in downtown Boise; Fisher's recently launched a new company, Digital Printing and Imaging (DPI) located at 595 East 42nd Street in Garden City, to sell and service Lanier equipment; GeoTek, Inc., an environmental services consulting firm, opened an office on East Corporate Drive in Meridian; a Wendy's franchise and two multi-tenant retail buildings are planned for the west side of Eagle Road, south of Fairview Avenue in Meridian; PetsMart opened a new retail outlet at 1220 North Eagle Road in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Meridian; Our Secret Garden and Gayle's Loft of Books opened in units G and F at 172 West State Street in Eagle; St. Luke's Regional Medical Center purchased 14 acres on the south side of State Street (across from the Home Depot) in Eagle for a future outpatient facility; Taco Del Mar opened a new eatery in Eagle at 13613 W. McMillan Road; Kabloom Florist opened in Eagle at 3210 East Chinden Boulevard, Suite 132; Group One opened a new real estate office in Eagle at 661 South Rivershore Lane, Suite 200; the Nampa Edwards Jones office plans to relocate to 176 Second Street South in Nampa; and TitleOne Corporation opened a second Nampa escrow office in early June at 316 Twelfth Avenue Road.

Adams County

- Brundage Mountain Resort announced in early May that it set a record for skier visits during the 2003-2004 season. Skier visits were up about 7.0 percent, and the resort reported 122,430 skier visits for 2003-2004; this is the third consecutive year that Brundage has broken the record for most skier visits in the resort's history.

- The State of Idaho recently awarded the City of Council \$550,000 for two separate projects: \$500,000 for downtown revitalization and \$50,000 for improvements to the senior center. The downtown revitalization grant is part of a five-year planning effort connected to the Highway 95 alternate route project. The money was part of the Idaho Department of Commerce's Idaho Community Development Block Grants Program (ICDBG). This year, the ICDBG program awarded nearly \$7 million for water/sewer, downtown redevelopment, and senior center projects in Idaho communities.

Valley County

- Tamarack will spend \$52 million through 2004 on major construction projects, which will include installing two detachable quad chairlifts, a four-story Members Lodge for The Club at Tamarack Resort, 42 cottages and chalets, a rough cutting of the resort's golf course, three additional ski lifts, 25 home estates, and three stone bridges for Nordic skiing. Also, three new ski slopes will be carved, eight miles of new mountain bike trails will be cut, multiple landscaping projects will continue, and more road and utility constructions projects will be completed. Tamarack also recently received approval to use about 9 acres of its land for a plant nursery, temporary construction yard, and temporary RV park. Construction workers and contractors working on projects throughout Tamarack Resort will use the RV park. There is a two-year limit per occupant.

Washington County

- The State of Idaho recently awarded the City of Weiser \$330,000 to assist the city in its Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. The money was part of the Idaho Department of Commerce's Idaho Community Development Block Grants Program (ICDBG).

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for the Magic Valley Labor Market Area was 3.5 percent in April 2004. This was three-tenths of a percentage point below March 2004 and seven-tenths of a percentage point less than April 2003. *Civilian Labor Force* was up 560 from March to April 2004 and up 4,410 over April 2003, an increase of 8.2 percent.

The Magic Valley LMA is still one of the hottest economies in the state with good sustained job growth and stable unemployment rates. Some major sectors with strong growth included *Construction* where the year-over-year increase was 45.0 percent or 860 persons. It appears this sector had growth in all types of construction. Residential building seems to be just slightly less than last year since interest rates have probably bottomed out, but business expansion, improvement, and new infrastructure projects bode well for construction in the Magic Valley. *Food Manufacturing* was down just slightly from March 2004 to April 2004; however, strong dairy product sales and demand are causing local processors to hire workers. Kraft Foods in Rupert will be adding a string cheese line and hiring an additional 50 workers. Areas of concern are in potato processing and possibly in sugar processing. Demand is down for regular potatoes and it will remain to be seen if potatoes will have an average or below average year.

In the western Magic Valley especially, *Retail Trade* and *Wholesale Trade* are up 14.3 and 10.8 percent, respectively, year-over-year. This has been in response to very positive market driven consumer behavior. Consumer confidence in the Magic Valley LMA remains very high and new retailers were added in late 2003. Additional retailers appear to be coming to Twin Falls and this should continue to give the Magic Valley LMA a strong performance in 2004. It also seems that despite higher gasoline prices and worries over the war in Iraq, Americans are planning vacations at the best rate since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding Counties

	April 2004*	Mar 2004	April 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	58,060	57,500	53,650	1.0	8.2
Unemployment	2,040	2,210	2,280	-7.7	-10.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.8	4.2		
Total Employment	56,020	55,290	51,370	1.3	9.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	56,650	55,970	53,060	1.2	6.8
Unemployment	2,540	2,890	2,170	-12.1	17.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	5.2	4.1		
Total Employment	54,110	53,080	50,890	1.9	6.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	44,790	44,140	39,610	1.5	13.1
Goods-Providing Industries	7,920	7,550	6,790	4.9	16.6
Natural Resources & Mining	20	20	40	0.0	-50.0
Construction	2,770	2,350	1,910	17.9	45.0
Manufacturing	5,130	5,180	4,840	-1.0	6.0
Food Manufacturing	3,680	3,570	2,980	3.1	23.5
Other Manufacturing	1,450	1,610	1,860	-9.9	-22.0
Service-Providing Industries	36,870	36,590	32,820	0.8	12.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,590	10,170	9,550	4.1	10.9
Wholesale Trade	1,950	1,900	1,760	2.6	10.8
Retail Trade	6,560	6,280	5,740	4.5	14.3
Utilities	270	250	210	8.0	28.6
Transportation & Warehousing	1,810	1,740	1,850	4.0	-2.2
Information	510	500	500	2.0	2.0
Financial Activities	1,750	1,740	1,720	0.6	1.7
Professional & Business Services	6,080	6,410	5,170	-5.1	17.6
Educational & Health Services	3,840	3,790	3,120	1.3	23.1
Leisure & Hospitality	3,540	3,650	3,330	-3.0	6.3
Other Services	1,500	1,520	1,470	-1.3	2.0
Government Education	4,500	4,230	3,830	6.4	17.5
Government Administration	4,560	4,580	4,120	-0.4	10.7

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

There is a dampening factor, however, as the Western U.S. and Idaho are in the midst of a terrifically serious drought. In South Central Idaho, a last minute agreement on groundwater usage and curtailment was reached before a financially and economically catastrophic water call event took place. Serious attention and corrective measures are being considered for the future of Idaho water. Also, the drought could cause a late summer slackening of tourism due to tinder dry conditions.

The western Magic Valley continues to be a leader in the state and, in many cases, the nation for job creation and economic vitality. Some of the new employers have brought higher wages as well as new jobs to the Magic Valley. This might mitigate what many perceive to be a shortcoming in the area's overall economic vitality—a history of relative low wages and high employee turnover in nonfarm jobs. The per capita personal income statistics and their rankings in the state are fairly high for Twin Falls, Jerome, and Cassia Counties, but

these are dominated by agricultural prices as a component of personal income. The statistics might not adequately reflect what is available in terms of a general tax base, community and personal investments, and other measures of economic vitality. New jobs, higher wages, and increased economic diversification will broaden and deepen the area's economy.

The current challenges about water: sources, supply, uses, priorities, conservation, must be included in economic development plans and actions. All areas of the Magic Valley, must add water usage as a major criterion to business recruitment. Careful and controlled water usage with voluntary water conservation methods and businesses leading the way in setting community examples should make the economy here continue to thrive and grow.

COMMERCE & LABOR DEPARTMENTS MERGE JULY 1, 2004

What does it mean for you?

On July 1, 2004, the Idaho Department of Commerce and the Idaho Department of Labor merged into one organization. For the past several months, the Director of the Idaho Department of Labor had been assigned as Acting Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce. Because of the close association of these two organizations, Governor Kempthorne suggested to the Legislature that a merger take place. The Legislature passed the required legislation, which became official on July 1, 2004.

What Changes?

The new department will be publicly known as Idaho Commerce & Labor. All 24 Job Service offices throughout the state will be known as Idaho Commerce & Labor offices. There will be no jobs lost or major personnel changes. The people with whom South Central Idaho customers are used to working with will still be the same people you see on a daily basis. The famous "Job Service" logo will be phased out and outdoor location signs will be changed. Business cards and stationery will look a little different. Other than that, it's the same good service, plus some additional services, from the same caring people.

How does this help?

Although many people think commerce and labor are very different, our goals have always been the same: helping to attract and retain good employers to keep our workforce gainfully employed.

The labor side of the organization continues to provide services for customers that may need unemployment assistance or any other job seeking training. The Office Managers throughout the state and the Regional Labor Economists will work closely with economic development colleagues in the commerce side of the organization to partner with all the city and area economic development specialist so that a seamless transition from statewide economic development leads to local area leads takes place.

With one Director and some shared administrative functions, costs are kept down with a well-coordinated department that has little duplication of effort. Idahoans now have the maximum efficiency they need to attract and re-

tain businesses and give both the employer and the employee the best representation possible.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties

- The Hailey Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center moved to Main Street on May 10, sharing space with the Blaine County Job Service located at the corner of Main Street and Myrtle. This will be the first time that these entities have shared an office. The idea was sparked by the merger of the Idaho Departments of Commerce & Labor into one entity known as Idaho Commerce & Labor. Hailey Chamber Executive Director Tom Smith expects that the increased visibility offered by Main Street will bring more people through the Center, and the partnership with Idaho Commerce & Labor will foster economic development in the city. The new center will be staffed by a corps of volunteers and eventually an intern. This is the first such partnership in the state.
- Magic Valley Bank now has a full-service branch office in Jerome located in the Wal-Mart Shopping Center. The branch will offer personalized banking services and will have expanded office hours, being open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The full-service branch office has three teller windows and a 24-hour ATM.

Cassia and Minidoka County

- The Family Dollar Store held a grand opening in Rupert on July 1. The Family Dollar Store is next to Kings in Rupert and offers variety store merchandise. The store will initially hire 20-25 workers; 5-8 of those positions will be part-time.
- The Kraft Foods plant plans to add 50 full-and part-time positions to their processing staff. The recent increase in cheese demand has prompted the expansion. The new workers will work on a string cheese product. Kraft had laid off about 50 workers in late 2002, but earlier this year, the City of Rupert was awarded a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant for infrastructure improvements that allowed Kraft to add 35 more workers. With the addition of the new 50 workers, Kraft is back above its pre-2002 levels and that is extremely good news for the Mini-Cassia area.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued its downward trend and fell to 4.1 percent in April 2004 from 4.3 percent in March 2004. Spring activity in agriculture, lawn and landscaping services, trucking and retail trade drove unemployment down 5.1 percent in April 2004. From 2003 the area's unemployment rate fell 1.1 percentage points, a drop from 5.2 percent in April 2003 to the current rate of 4.1 percent. While the area's *Civilian Labor Force* remained fairly constant, the number of unemployed individuals fell 21.3 percent from 2,110 in April 2003 to 1,660 in April 2004. The number of individuals employed grew 1.4 percent from 38,230 in April 2003 to 38,760 in April 2004. Employment counts employed people who live within Bannock County; this does not necessarily mean they work in Bannock County. As a result, the improved employment numbers could be partially because workers have commuted outside Bannock County for jobs.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased 1.5 percent (500) in April 2004 to 34,180. From March 2004 increases occurred in both the *Goods-Producing Industries*, which increased 1.5 percent (90), and the *Service-Providing Industries*, which increased 1.4 percent (410). Job increases over the month were typical seasonal changes. In the *Goods-Producing Industries*, *Manufacturing* increased by 3.2 percent (80). Jobs increased in *Other Manufacturing* and occurred throughout several business sectors.

In the *Service-Providing Industries*, *Trade, Transportation & Utilities* created 210 jobs because wholesale and retail began to stock seasonal supplies for building, landscaping, and gardening

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	April 2004*	Mar 2004	April 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,420	40,340	40,340	0.2	0.2
Unemployment	1,660	1,750	2,110	-5.1	-21.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.3	5.2		
Total Employment	38,760	38,590	38,230	0.4	1.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	41,110	41,220	41,000	-0.3	0.3
Unemployment	1,710	2,020	2,140	-15.3	-20.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.9	5.2		
Total Employment	39,400	39,200	38,860	0.5	1.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	34,180	33,680	33,550	1.5	1.9
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,110	4,020	4,170	2.2	-1.4
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,500	1,490	1,620	0.7	-7.4
Manufacturing	2,600	2,520	2,540	3.2	2.4
Food Manufacturing	460	460	430	0.0	7.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	120	120	110	0.0	9.1
Machinery Manufacturing	30	30	40	0.0	-25.0
Other Manufacturing	1,990	1,910	1,960	4.2	1.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	30,070	29,660	29,380	1.4	2.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,880	6,670	6,610	3.1	4.1
Wholesale Trade	1,110	1,030	1,020	7.8	8.8
Retail Trade	4,480	4,350	4,350	3.0	3.0
Utilities	40	50	40	-20.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,250	1,240	1,200	0.8	4.2
Information	680	680	610	0.0	11.5
Financial Activities	1,830	1,820	1,920	0.5	-4.7
Professional & Business Services	3,730	3,570	3,770	4.5	-1.1
Educational & Health Services	2,760	2,740	2,790	0.7	-1.1
Leisure & Hospitality	3,240	3,270	3,370	-0.9	-3.9
Other Services	930	920	840	1.1	10.7
Government Education	5,750	5,760	5,520	-0.2	4.2
Government Administration	4,280	4,230	3,950	1.2	8.4

*Preliminary Estimate

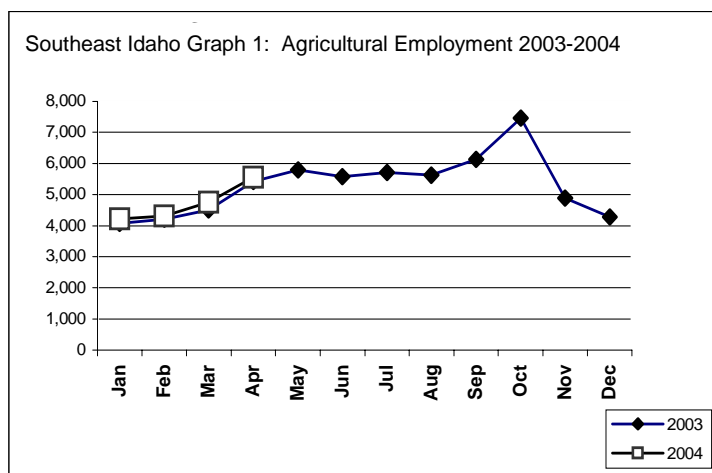
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

activities. *Professional & Business Services* increased by 160 jobs as employers increased temporary staffing for the busy spring and summer season and accounting firms added staff for the busy tax preparation season. *Government Administration* added 50 jobs as seasonal hiring for parks, recreation programs, and road construction occurred. *Leisure & Hospitality* lost 30 jobs as winter recreational activities ceased. From April 2003 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 630, a good indicator that the economy is strengthening although April's warm weather might be a factor in year-over-year comparisons. Another good sign of a strengthening economy is increased activity in *Manufacturing*, which gained 60 jobs over the year. Gains were widespread and occurred in

Foods, Fabricated Metals, and Other Manufacturing. Government Administration showed an increase of 330 jobs over the year, but the additional jobs moved from private health services to the public sector when the two Pocatello hospitals merged. Without the reporting change of those private sector jobs, *Government Administration* would show a job reduction over the year.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Area Agriculture

The demand for agricultural workers in Southeast Idaho typically begins to build in March and then jumps to its highest month-over-month increase in April. Demand remains steady during the summer months then begins to build again in September with another large jump in October for harvest. Mild weather allowed agricultural activities to begin earlier in 2004 than in 2003. The number of agricultural workers increased an estimated 10.1 percent to 4,748 in March 2004, compared to a 6.9 percent increase to 4,500 one year earlier in March 2003; that number increased an estimated 16.9 percent to 5,551 in April 2004 compared to 20.6 percent to 5,425 one year earlier in April 2003. Southeast Idaho Graph 1: Agricultural Employment, charts estimated monthly employment in Southeast Idaho in 2003 and the first four months of 2004.



Unfortunately, crops that are planted early are sometimes damaged by May winds and late frosts. This year, winds damaged approximately 2,000 acres of sugar beets in Power County. Much of the crop has been replanted, but some acreage was planted in wheat, a short-season crop, to avoid problems late in the season with short water supplies.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce

publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- Throughout the summer of 2004, the Idaho Transportation Department will work on a road construction project on Fourth and Fifth Avenues in Pocatello. The \$4 million project will include laying fiber optics to connect signal lights throughout Pocatello and allow the addition of video detection equipment for improved traffic flow. The project will be done in three-block sections, and work will be done at night to avoid daytime traffic interruptions.
- A new business, Child Behavior Center, opened in Pocatello. The business opened at Center Street's 151 building in Pocatello and will remain there until its new facility on Hospital Way is built. The new \$1 million, 11,000-square-foot facility should be completed by the end of the year. The business will bring approximately 50 jobs to Pocatello and will offer mental health services to youth.
- Ireland Bank has opened a second facility in Pocatello. The new bank location is at 486 Yellowstone Avenue.

Bear Lake County

- The Home Realty Network/Preston has opened a branch office at 358 Washington in Montpelier. Four real estate agents have joined the new business. Owner, Ryan Olsen, plans to expand the business to other cities in Southeast Idaho.

Bingham County

- The new Firth Town Square Business Park installed a new sign to identify its tenants. The Firth Medical Center, Potelco United Credit Union, Optometrist, Dr. Alona King, The City of Firth, and Boyd Petersen Law Office occupy the business park building. Bids were received, and work should begin soon to pave the facility's rear parking lot.

Power County

- A gift shop opened at Harms Memorial Hospital. Community donations and work donated by the hospital's women's auxiliary/volunteers made opening of the gift shop possible. All proceeds will be used on volunteer projects or donated back to the hospital for improvements.

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NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

April's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) increased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 3.4 percent as shown in Northeast Table 1. Of the four counties in the LMA, all showed slight increases with the exception of Butte County that showed a large 1.50-percentage-point decrease. Rates of the four counties ranged from 3.0 percent, shared by both Butte and Bonneville Counties, to 4.2 percent in Bingham County. Year-over-year, the LMA decreased four-tenths of a percentage point with all four counties showing decreases. Butte County showed the largest year-over-year decrease of 1.5 percentage points. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, remained unchanged at 3.3 percent over the month, but decreased four-tenths of a percentage point over the year. The LMA's unemployment rate was 1.0 percentage point lower than the state's rate of 4.4 percent and 2.2 percentage points lower than the national rate of 5.6 percent.

Among the other six counties in Northeast Idaho, Clark County showed the largest monthly gain (seven-tenths of a percentage point to 6.8 percent) and Custer County showed the largest monthly loss (nine-tenths of a percentage point to 6.3). Year-over-year, Clark County showed a large 2.3-percentage-point increase while changes in other counties were minimal. Clark County has shown increases for several months. Because Clark County is the smallest county by population and second smallest in *Civilian Labor Force*, minor employment changes can make large changes in the unemployment rate (a percent of unemployed persons compared to the total labor force). Over the past year, large employer Larsen Farms has been reorganizing and some layoffs have occurred from mid-management and below. Since the county is largely agricultural, there is not a lot of other employment to choose from in the event of layoffs.

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	April 2004*	Mar 2004	April 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	85,610	85,950	84,440	-0.4	1.4
Unemployment	2,930	2,860	3,180	2.4	-7.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.3	3.8		
Total Employment	82,680	83,090	81,260	-0.5	1.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	84,380	84,080	83,160	0.4	1.5
Unemployment	2,770	3,280	2,950	-15.5	-6.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.9	3.5		
Total Employment	81,610	80,800	80,210	1.0	1.7
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	65,840	64,750	63,830	1.7	3.1
Goods-Producing Industries	9,780	9,410	9,740	3.9	0.4
Natural Resources & Mining	70	60	70	16.7	0.0
Construction	4,890	4,570	4,310	7.0	13.5
Manufacturing	4,820	4,780	5,360	0.8	-10.1
Food Manufacturing	2,800	2,750	3,060	1.8	-8.5
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	260	250	250	4.0	4.0
Machinery Manufacturing	410	420	450	-2.4	-8.9
Other Manufacturing	1,350	1,360	1,600	-0.7	-15.6
Service-Providing Industries	56,060	55,340	54,090	1.3	3.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	15,510	15,350	14,810	1.0	4.7
Wholesale Trade	5,350	5,290	5,120	1.1	4.5
Retail Trade	8,300	8,200	7,930	1.2	4.7
Utilities	120	120	120	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,740	1,740	1,640	0.0	6.1
Information	970	940	980	3.2	-1.0
Financial Activities	2,190	2,180	2,120	0.5	3.3
Professional & Business Services	12,090	11,780	11,660	2.6	3.7
Educational & Health Services	6,780	6,720	6,300	0.9	7.6
Leisure & Hospitality	5,100	5,040	4,900	1.2	4.1
Other Services	2,020	2,000	2,270	1.0	-11.0
Government Education	5,100	5,140	5,170	-0.8	-1.4
Government Administration	6,300	6,190	5,880	1.8	7.1

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 1,090 over the month to 65,840. The *Construction* industry was the largest contributor, followed closely by *Professional & Business Services*. Each added over 300 jobs. *Retail Trade* and *Government Administration* each added approximately 100 jobs. All four industries normally see increases this time of year with most gearing up to prepare for the summer months. The only decrease seen in an industry was a loss of 40 jobs in *Government Education*. Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 2,010. *Trade* added the most jobs year-over-year (600 jobs) with *Retail Trade* adding almost 400 of that. *Construction* came in a close second (580 jobs) with weather on its side and an overabundance of projects. *Professional & Business Services*, *Educational & Health Services*, and *Government Administration* each showed increases of over 400 jobs. Larger de-

creases were seen in *Manufacturing (Food Manufacturing and Other Manufacturing sectors)* at 540 jobs, while *Other Services* in the *Service-Providing Industries* lost 250 jobs.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- The Idaho Falls City Council was unanimous on approving \$2 million for refurbishing the McDermott Field in Highland Park. This is where the area's professional baseball has played since 1940. The field is owned by the city and is the site where fans watch the Idaho Falls Chukars (renamed from the Padres) play baseball, along with high school teams and American Legion teams. It has the potential of hosting state and regional high school Babe Ruth Leagues and American Legion Leagues. The Idaho Falls Chukars will raise the other \$1.3 million needed to fix the bleachers and grandstands. The Park is located on Elva Street.
- Rocknak's Hardware Plus store on Broadway Avenue in Idaho Falls has announced plans to build a new 17,000-square-foot building near the present location. The \$1.1 million expansion is something owner Dave Rocknak has wanted to do for many years, and equity is now allowing the dream to come true. Rocknak's is virtually the only hardware store on the west side of Idaho Falls. The additional space from the new building will allow Rocknak's to be a full-project store for those interested in remodeling and will add a classroom for woodworking classes that could increase power tool sales.
- The Snake River BMX track has just completed remodeling at its Highway 26 location just northeast of Idaho Falls. The remodel allows for wider tracks for more side-by-side racing and higher speeds in the turns. It also adds more technical aspects that demand more technique to conquer at high speeds. Races are held every Thursday through the end of September with on-site registration at 5:00 p.m.

Madison County

- Idaho Falls-based Smith Group purchased Rexburg's Madison Ford at 535 South Yellowstone Highway. Renovations and remodeling have given the dealership a Smith "look and feel." Aggressive pricing for quick liquidation made its sales number one in its zone in the first month of new ownership. The sale came about with the retirement of previous owner Doug Hancey.
- Taylor Corporation, parent company of Artco in Rexburg, acquired a new greeting and holiday card company. Executive Greetings Inc., the acquired company that was based out of Connecticut, will now be distributed between eight of Taylor's plants

with Artco's portion adding another 20 full-time positions and many seasonal positions for the October to December quarter. The acquisition could increase Artco's workload by 25 percent.

- The American Bus Association lists the Idaho International Folk Dance Festival that is held in Rexburg every summer in the top 100 events for bus tours this year. Already this summer three bus tour companies have made reservations for the event and the chamber feels that there will be more. The festival will start in Burley on July 26, move to Pocatello on July 30, and then finish up in Rexburg the week of August 2. Belgium, Latvia, Romania, Israel, the Philippines, Ukraine, and Slovakia have all secured visas and are ready to travel with the United States team. China is the only team that has not yet given confirmation to participate. For tickets, donations, volunteer work, or information, contact the Rexburg Chamber of Commerce at 356-5700.

Fremont County

- St. Anthony is looking for tenants for its new business development center that is still under construction. Plans call for the 8,000-square-foot building to open this fall; it has no committed employers at this time since two have canceled agreements.

Multi Counties

- U.S. Highway 20 now has one speed limit from Idaho Falls through Sugar City. Since the beginning of June, the speed limit was changed to 65 mph. Before, this section was 55 to 60 mph. The Idaho State Police requested the change and will now watch the section more closely. Although this change has gone into effect, it will have a temporary setback since the intersection of Highway 20 and Hitt Road, and the intersection of Highway 20 and St. Leon are considered two of the most dangerous intersections in Northeast Idaho. Because of this, full interchanges are being built to try to remedy the problem. More road construction will also occur as Highway 20 from Idaho Falls to Rigby will be resurfaced, the Holbrook Intersection will be extended, and a second half of the Ashton Bridge will be built. All of this should take place this summer, so work speed limits will be posted until the projects are finished.

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2003 CITY POPULATION DATA RELEASED

On June 24, 2004, the Population Division of the U.S. Census Bureau released its 2003 population estimates by city. The data available for 200 Idaho cities includes: the population for 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003; the county the city is located in; the numeric and percent change in the population; and the in-state rankings. A printed version of the table with the cities listed in alphabetical order can be found on FYI Table 1 beginning on page 23. The data can also be accessed at www.jobservice.ws.

Highlights of changes in the population from the 2000 census show that population growth and loss occurred in large cities as well as small cities and in all geographic areas of the state. The highlights have been divided into three areas—actual population, numeric change in the population, and the percent change in the population. When analyzing the change in the city population data, remember that the growth or loss of population in a small city can result in a significant percentage increase.

Population

- Boise City had the largest population in 2003 with 190,117 people, an increase from 189,808 in 2002.
- The 10 largest cities in Idaho are Boise City (190,117), Nampa (64,269), Idaho Falls (51,507), Pocatello (51,242), Meridian (41,127), Coeur d'Alene (37,262), Twin Falls (36,742), Lewiston (30,487), Caldwell (31,041), and Lewiston (30,937).
- Nine additional cities have a population in excess of 10,000. These are Rexburg (21,862), Moscow (21,707), Post Falls (19,984), Eagle (15,253), Mountain Home (11,376), Garden City (11,083), Blackfoot (10,646), Hayden (10,421), and Chubbuck (10,151).
- Warm River in Fremont County boasts the smallest incorporated population with only 10 people in 2003, unchanged from 2000.
- The ten smallest cities are Warm River (10), Hamer (12), Drummond (15), Atomic City (26), Clayton (26), State Line (29), Spencer (33), Oxford (53), Placerville (61), and Rebuens (72).
- Five additional cities have a population less than 100. They are Butte City (76), Hope (83), Leadore (88), Stanley (92), and Huetter (98).

Numeric Change in Population

- Nampa (64,269), located in Canyon County, experienced the largest increase in actual population between 2000 and 2003 with 12,402 more people.
- The population increased in 12 other cities by more than 1,000 over the three-year period. They are: Meridian (41,127), which added 6,208; Caldwell (31,041), which added 5,074; Rexburg (21,862), which added 4,605; Boise City (190,117), which added 4,330; Eagle (15,253), which added 4,168; Kuna (8,839), which added 3,457; Coeur d'Alene (37,262), which added 2,748; Post Falls (19,984), which added 2,737; Ammon (8,623), which added 2,436; Twin Falls (36,742), which added 2,273; Hayden (10,421), which added 1,262; and Hailey (7,301), which added 1,101.
- Twenty-three cities added between 100 and 1,000 new residents since 2000.
- Seventy cities experienced population growth of less than 100.
- Sixteen cities had no change in their population over the two years.
- Six cities lost more than 100 in their population—Heyburn (2,790) lost 109, Montpelier (2,636) lost 149, American Falls (3,958) lost

153, Kellogg (2,236) lost 159, Rupert (5,351) lost 294, and Pocatello (51,009) lost 451.

- Seventy-two other cities experienced a loss in population between 1 and 100.

Percent Change in Population

- Of the 19 cities with a population growth from April 2000 greater than 10 percent, eight had population between 500 and 3,700, five had population between 5,000 and 10,000, and the remaining six had population between 15,200 and 64,200.
- Kuna (8,839), located in Ada County, experienced the largest percent increase in population between 2000 and 2003 at 64.2 percent.
- Eight other cities experienced population increases of more than 20 percent over the three-year period. They were Ammon (8,623) up 39.4 percent, Eagle (15,253) up 37.6 percent, Dover (461) up 34.8 percent, Victor (1,103) up 31.3 percent, Rexburg (21,862) up 26.7 percent, Nampa (64,269) up 23.9 percent, Middleton (3,651) up 22.6 percent, and Star (2,178) up 21.3 percent.
- Ten cities experienced a population increase between 10.0 and 20.0 percent.
- Seventy-eight cities experienced population growth between 1.0 and 10.0 percent.
- Nine cities experienced population growth of less than 1.0 percent.

- Seventeen cities experienced population growth of 0.0 percent.
- Seventy-five cities experienced a population loss between 0.0 and 10.0 percent since 2000.
- Of the 62 cities that experienced a population loss of 1.0 percent or more, only 16 had a population in July 2003 greater than 1,000.
- Nine cities lost 7.0 percent or more of their population since April 2000. Unfortunately six are located in Northern Idaho counties—three in Shoshone County, three in Clearwater County, and one each in Bear Lake County, Clark County, and Custer County. The nine cities are— Spencer (33) lost 13.2 percent, Elk River (140) lost 10.3 percent, Pierce (561) lost 9.1 percent, Stanley (92) lost 8.0 percent, Wallace (887) lost 7.6 percent, Wardner (199) lost 7.4 percent, Weippe (387) lost 7.2 percent, St. Charles (145) lost 7.1 percent, and Mullen (781) lost 7.0 percent.
- Twelve cities experienced a loss between 5.0 and 6.8 percent since April 2000.
- Forty other cities experienced a loss between 1.0 and 4.9 percent over the three years.

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FYI Table 1: Population of Idaho Cities, 2000-2003

City	County	July 1, 2003 Population	July 1, 2002 Population	July 1, 2001 Population	July 1, 2000 Population	Census 2000 Population	Population Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003	Percent Change Census 2000 To July 1, 2003
Aberdeen	Bingham	1,839	1,835	1,844	1,840	1,840	-1	-0.1%
Acequia	Minidoka	138	139	140	144	144	-6	-4.2%
Albion	Cassia	262	263	263	262	262	0	0.0%
American Falls	Power	3,958	4,008	4,069	4,093	4,111	-153	-3.7%
Ammon	Bonneville	8,623	7,755	6,885	6,441	6,187	2,436	39.4%
Arco	Butte	1,016	1,033	1,011	1,026	1,026	-10	-1.0%
Arimo	Bannock	335	340	345	347	348	-13	-3.7%
Ashton	Fremont	1,129	1,111	1,117	1,124	1,129	0	0.0%
Athol	Kootenai	687	679	680	678	676	11	1.6%
Atomic City	Bingham	26	25	25	25	25	1	4.0%
Bancroft	Caribou	366	373	383	382	382	-16	-4.2%
Basalt	Bingham	425	422	422	419	419	6	1.4%
Bellevue	Blaine	2,115	2,006	1,921	1,882	1,876	239	12.7%
Blackfoot	Bingham	10,646	10,532	10,505	10,430	10,419	227	2.2%
Bliss	Gooding	271	271	273	275	275	-4	-1.5%
Bloomington	Bear Lake	238	239	249	251	251	-13	-5.2%
Boise City	Ada	190,117	189,808	188,174	186,242	185,787	4,330	2.3%
Bonniers Ferry	Boundary	2,647	2,612	2,579	2,615	2,515	132	5.2%
Bovill	Latah	298	302	303	304	305	-7	-2.3%
Buhl	Twin Falls	4,019	3,972	3,961	3,982	3,985	34	0.9%
Burley	Minidoka	9,313	9,315	9,329	9,310	9,316	-3	0.0%
Butte city	Butte	76	77	76	76	76	0	0.0%
Caldwell	Canyon	31,041	29,510	28,172	26,925	25,967	5,074	19.5%
Cambridge	Washington	355	355	357	359	360	-5	-1.4%
Carey	Blaine	527	524	518	513	513	14	2.7%
Cascade	Valley	975	971	993	994	997	-22	-2.2%
Castleford	Twin Falls	277	275	275	277	277	0	0.0%
Challis	Custer	847	869	892	909	909	-62	-6.8%
Chubbuck	Bannock	10,151	10,016	9,876	9,732	9,700	451	4.6%
Clark Fork	Bonner	566	552	538	533	530	36	6.8%
Clayton	Custer	26	26	27	27	27	-1	-3.7%
Clifton	Franklin	229	225	218	214	213	16	7.5%
Coeur d'Alene	Kootenai	37,262	36,480	35,532	34,802	34,514	2,748	8.0%
Cottonwood	Idaho	1,008	1,021	949	944	944	64	6.8%
Council	Adams	765	778	789	810	816	-51	-6.3%
Craigmont	Lewis	554	553	536	556	556	-2	-0.4%
Crouch	Boise	165	161	159	156	154	11	7.1%
Culdesac	Nez Perce	375	372	372	377	378	-3	-0.8%
Dalton Gardens	Kootenai	2,304	2,291	2,278	2,283	2,278	26	1.1%
Dayton	Franklin	447	445	442	444	444	3	0.7%
Deary	Latah	534	543	548	549	552	-18	-3.3%
Declo	Cassia	336	337	338	338	338	-2	-0.6%
Dietrich	Lincoln	159	156	154	151	150	9	6.0%
Donnelly	Valley	133	132	136	137	138	-5	-3.6%
Dover	Bonner	461	450	440	437	342	119	34.8%
Downey	Bannock	599	604	612	612	613	-14	-2.3%
Driggs	Teton	1,133	1,147	1,117	1,107	1,100	33	3.0%
Drummond	Fremont	15	15	15	15	15	0	0.0%
Dubois	Clark	623	665	676	711	647	-24	-3.7%
Eagle	Ada	15,253	14,555	13,785	12,329	11,085	4,168	37.6%
East Hope	Bonner	212	208	204	203	200	12	6.0%
Eden	Jerome	411	410	410	412	411	0	0.0%
Elk River	Clearwater	140	142	146	154	156	-16	-10.3%
Emmett	Gem	5,933	5,792	5,709	5,606	5,490	443	8.1%
Fairfield	Camas	399	402	396	389	395	4	1.0%
Ferdinand	Idaho	147	149	143	144	145	2	1.4%
Fernan Lake Village	Kootenai	187	187	188	187	186	1	0.5%

FYI Table 1: Population of Idaho Cities, 2000-2003 (cont.)

City	County	July 1, 2003 Population	July 1, 2002 Population	July 1, 2001 Population	July 1, 2000 Population	Census 2000 Population	Population Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003	Percent Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003
Filer	Twin Falls	1,690	1,648	1,631	1,622	1,620	70	4.3%
Firth	Bingham	418	414	413	409	408	10	2.5%
Franklin	Franklin	659	655	643	642	641	18	2.8%
Fruitland	Payette	4,116	4,011	3,924	3,830	3,805	311	8.2%
Garden City	Ada	11,083	10,976	10,865	10,671	10,624	459	4.3%
Genesee	Latah	915	929	938	941	946	-31	-3.3%
Georgetown	Bear Lake	521	523	540	539	538	-17	-3.2%
Glenns Ferry	Elmore	1,514	1,567	1,583	1,601	1,611	-97	-6.0%
Gooding	Gooding	3,323	3,322	3,347	3,386	3,384	-61	-1.8%
Grace	Caribou	967	985	1,008	992	990	-23	-2.3%
Grand View	Owyhee	491	481	481	472	470	21	4.5%
Grangeville	Idaho	3,146	3,184	3,201	3,217	3,228	-82	-2.5%
Greenleaf	Canyon	874	875	868	864	862	12	1.4%
Hagerman	Gooding	685	681	674	661	656	29	4.4%
Hailey	Blaine	7,301	7,079	6,764	6,320	6,200	1,101	17.8%
Hamer	Jefferson	12	12	12	12	12	0	0.0%
Hansen	Twin Falls	984	975	969	970	970	14	1.4%
Harrison	Kootenai	270	268	268	268	267	3	1.1%
Hauser	Kootenai	691	680	678	671	668	23	3.4%
Hayden	Kootenai	10,421	9,949	9,571	9,312	9,159	1,262	13.8%
Hayden Lake	Kootenai	502	498	499	496	494	8	1.6%
Hazelton	Jerome	703	699	696	692	687	16	2.3%
Heyburn	Minidoka	2,790	2,802	2,810	2,889	2,899	-109	-3.8%
Hollister	Twin Falls	239	237	237	237	237	2	0.8%
Homedale	Owyhee	2,590	2,554	2,567	2,535	2,528	62	2.5%
Hope	Bonner	83	81	79	79	79	4	5.1%
Horseshoe Bend	Boise	829	811	797	778	770	59	7.7%
Huetter	Kootenai	98	96	96	96	96	2	2.1%
Idaho City	Boise	494	482	474	463	458	36	7.9%
Idaho Falls	Bonneville	51,507	51,088	51,009	50,897	50,730	777	1.5%
Inkom	Bannock	722	732	739	738	738	-16	-2.2%
Iona	Bonneville	1,219	1,208	1,205	1,203	1,201	18	1.5%
Irwin	Bonneville	156	157	157	157	157	-1	-0.6%
Island Park	Fremont	215	213	213	214	215	0	0.0%
Jerome	Jerome	8,039	7,922	7,862	7,881	7,780	259	3.3%
Juliaetta	Latah	591	600	605	606	609	-18	-3.0%
Kamiah	Idaho	1,160	1,153	1,119	1,159	1,160	0	0.0%
Kellogg	Shoshone	2,236	2,255	2,325	2,388	2,395	-159	-6.6%
Kendrick	Latah	358	363	366	367	369	-11	-3.0%
Ketchum	Blaine	3,121	3,097	3,063	3,011	3,003	118	3.9%
Kimberly	Twin Falls	2,700	2,671	2,623	2,616	2,614	86	3.3%
Kooskia	Idaho	666	675	678	674	675	-9	-1.3%
Kootenai	Bonner	462	452	442	439	441	21	4.8%
Kuna	Ada	8,839	7,776	6,942	5,885	5,382	3,457	64.2%
Lapwai	Nez Perce	1,126	1,115	1,114	1,132	1,134	-8	-0.7%
Lava Hot Springs	Bannock	526	528	527	522	521	5	1.0%
Leadore	Lemhi	88	89	88	89	90	-2	-2.2%
Lewiston	Nez Perce	30,937	30,543	30,433	30,856	30,904	33	0.1%
Lewisville	Jefferson	481	474	467	468	467	14	3.0%
Mackay	Custer	531	544	557	566	566	-35	-6.2%
Malad City	Oneida	2,108	2,114	2,146	2,153	2,158	-50	-2.3%
Malta	Cassia	177	177	177	177	177	0	0.0%
Marsing	Owyhee	986	949	932	898	890	96	10.8%
McCall	Valley	2,207	2,130	2,126	2,094	2,084	123	5.9%
McCammon	Bannock	800	806	809	805	805	-5	-0.6%
Melba	Canyon	507	502	453	442	439	68	15.5%
Menan	Jefferson	718	711	703	708	707	11	1.6%
Meridian	Ada	41,127	39,195	37,411	35,518	34,919	6,208	17.8%

FYI Table 1: Population of Idaho Cities, 2000-2002 (cont.)

City	County	July 1, 2003 Population	July 1, 2002 Population	July 1, 2001 Population	July 1, 2000 Population	Census 2000 Population	Population Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003	Percent Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003
Middleton	Canyon	3,651	3,279	3,173	3,020	2,978	673	22.6%
Midvale	Washington	181	178	175	176	176	5	2.8%
Minidoka	Minidoka	122	123	124	128	129	-7	-5.4%
Montpelier	Bear Lake	2,636	2,652	2,745	2,783	2,785	-149	-5.4%
Moore	Butte	196	199	194	196	196	0	0.0%
Moscow	Latah	21,707	21,514	21,613	21,336	21,291	416	2.0%
Mountain Home	Elmore	11,376	11,611	11,496	11,273	11,143	233	2.1%
Moyie Springs	Boundary	685	670	662	661	656	29	4.4%
Mud Lake	Jefferson	272	272	267	270	270	2	0.7%
Mullan	Shoshone	781	789	815	837	840	-59	-7.0%
Murtaugh	Twin Falls	141	138	138	139	139	2	1.4%
Nampa	Canyon	64,269	60,638	57,070	53,572	51,867	12,402	23.9%
New Meadows	Adams	507	514	518	530	533	-26	-4.9%
New Plymouth	Payette	1,390	1,397	1,392	1,399	1,400	-10	-0.7%
Newdale	Fremont	364	359	357	357	358	6	1.7%
Nezperce	Lewis	515	515	502	522	523	-8	-1.5%
Notus	Canyon	506	495	474	461	458	48	10.5%
Oakley	Cassia	662	665	667	667	668	-6	-0.9%
Oldtown	Bonner	205	200	194	191	190	15	7.9%
Onaway	Latah	223	227	228	229	230	-7	-3.0%
Orofino	Clearwater	3,151	3,152	3,215	3,248	3,247	-96	-3.0%
Osburn	Shoshone	1,459	1,465	1,508	1,542	1,545	-86	-5.6%
Oxford	Franklin	53	53	53	53	53	0	0.0%
Paris	Bear Lake	544	550	568	575	576	-32	-5.6%
Parker	Fremont	322	318	317	318	319	3	0.9%
Parma	Canyon	1,803	1,808	1,797	1,778	1,771	32	1.8%
Paul	Minidoka	963	970	976	1,007	998	-35	-3.5%
Payette	Payette	7,298	7,231	7,131	7,113	7,054	244	3.5%
Peck	Nez Perce	185	183	183	186	186	-1	-0.5%
Pierce	Clearwater	561	569	584	612	617	-56	-9.1%
Pinehurst	Shoshone	1,590	1,593	1,636	1,661	1,661	-71	-4.3%
Placerville	Boise	61	60	60	60	60	1	1.7%
Plummer	Benewah	974	971	974	992	990	-16	-1.6%
Pocatello	Bannock	51,009	51,270	51,467	51,428	51,466	-457	-0.9%
Ponderay	Bonner	692	674	657	648	638	54	8.5%
Post Falls	Kootenai	19,984	19,044	18,439	17,821	17,247	2,737	15.9%
Potlatch	Latah	759	773	780	787	791	-32	-4.0%
Preston	Franklin	4,845	4,818	4,737	4,695	4,682	163	3.5%
Priest River	Bonner	1,863	1,818	1,775	1,762	1,754	109	6.2%
Rathdrum	Kootenai	5,296	5,087	4,917	4,847	4,816	480	10.0%
Reubens	Lewis	72	71	69	72	72	0	0.0%
Rexburg	Madison	21,862	18,847	17,711	17,379	17,257	4,605	26.7%
Richfield	Lincoln	429	423	419	413	412	17	4.1%
Rigby	Jefferson	3,035	3,000	2,970	2,998	2,998	37	1.2%
Riggins	Idaho	404	410	411	410	410	-6	-1.5%
Ririe	Jefferson	542	542	539	545	545	-3	-0.6%
Roberts	Jefferson	674	673	664	652	647	27	4.2%
Rockland	Power	305	307	311	314	316	-11	-3.5%
Rupert	Minidoka	5,351	5,396	5,442	5,619	5,645	-294	-5.2%
Salmon	Lemhi	3,038	3,064	3,042	3,093	3,122	-84	-2.7%
Sandpoint	Bonner	7,378	7,171	6,951	6,876	6,835	543	7.9%
Shelley	Bingham	3,885	3,831	3,827	3,821	3,813	72	1.9%
Shoshone	Lincoln	1,488	1,453	1,431	1,402	1,398	90	6.4%
Smelterville	Shoshone	618	621	638	650	651	-33	-5.1%
Soda Springs	Caribou	3,294	3,337	3,411	3,381	3,381	-87	-2.6%
Spencer	Clark	33	36	36	38	38	-5	-13.2%
Spirit Lake	Kootenai	1,431	1,411	1,399	1,384	1,376	55	4.0%
St. Anthony	Fremont	3,375	3,321	3,334	3,335	3,342	33	1.0%

FYI Table 1: Population of Idaho Cities, 2000-2002 (cont.)

City	County	July 1, 2003 Population	July 1, 2002 Population	July 1, 2001 Population	July 1, 2000 Population	Census 2000 Population	Population Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003	Percent Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003
St. Charles	Bear Lake	145	146	152	156	156	-11	-7.1%
St. Maries	Benewah	2,589	2,592	2,601	2,656	2,652	-63	-2.4%
Stanley	Custer	92	95	98	100	100	-8	-8.0%
Star**	Ada	2,178	2,101	2,023	1,841	1,795	383	21.3%
State Line	Kootenai	29	29	28	28	28	1	3.6%
Stites	Idaho	225	225	225	225	226	-1	-0.4%
Sugar City	Madison	1,352	1,272	1,253	1,244	1,242	110	8.9%
Sun Valley	Blaine	1,446	1,446	1,440	1,428	1,427	19	1.3%
Swan Valley	Bonneville	219	216	215	214	213	6	2.8%
Tensed	Benewah	124	124	124	126	126	-2	-1.6%
Teton	Fremont	581	572	569	568	569	12	2.1%
Tetonia	Teton	258	262	251	249	247	11	4.5%
Troy	Latah	774	785	790	794	798	-24	-3.0%
Twin Falls	Twin Falls	36,742	35,641	34,955	34,753	34,469	2,273	6.6%
Ucon	Bonneville	966	949	946	945	943	23	2.4%
Victor	Teton	1,103	1,045	897	855	840	263	31.3%
Wallace	Shoshone	887	897	928	956	960	-73	-7.6%
Wardner	Shoshone	199	201	208	214	215	-16	-7.4%
Warm River	Fremont	10	10	10	10	10	0	0.0%
Weippe	Clearwater	386	386	394	413	416	-30	-7.2%
Weiser	Washington	5,386	5,381	5,414	5,431	5,343	43	0.8%
Wendell	Gooding	2,335	2,336	2,330	2,341	2,338	-3	-0.1%
Weston	Franklin	433	437	432	427	425	8	1.9%
White Bird	Idaho	106	106	106	106	106	0	0.0%
Wilder	Canyon	1,465	1,475	1,473	1,465	1,462	3	0.2%
Winchester	Lewis	307	307	298	308	308	-1	-0.3%
Worley	Kootenai	223	223	224	224	223	0	0.0%

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

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entire season to meet this type of labor need. Other crop activities, such as crop thinning and harvesting, are short-term and the jobs are filled by not only short-term, hired workers but also by farm labor contractors who hire crews of workers who move from farm to farm.

Most of Idaho's seasonal farm workers are local residents who work for near-by producers. Other seasonal workers are migrant laborers, moving temporarily from their permanent residences to where the work is. Some migrant workers often return to the same farmer year after year residing in the growers' area for the season. Other migrant workers prefer to move from area to area and state to state according to peak labor demand that vary by crop and crop activity.

Some Idaho farmers use an immigration program that permits the employment of foreign workers in temporary agricultural jobs for which U.S. citizens are not available or do not want. This program is known as the "H-2A" program (the portion of the federal legislation that authorizes the program). It is a closely regulated program and is not intended to be a source of "cheap" labor. Idaho H-2A workers are irrigators, shepherders, and sheep shearers. Almost all the H-2A workers in Idaho are hired as irrigators. This year, 196 farm operators have filed applications to hire up to 761 foreign workers.

2002 Census of Agriculture

The National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), U. S. Department of Agriculture released the first reports from the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by NASS, the census of agriculture attempts to reach every agricultural operator in America through a mail or telephone survey.

State Table 4 provides some highlights taken from the census reports. This table includes some of the basic characteristics of Idaho farms in 2002 and, for comparison data from the 1997 census of agriculture. In order to be included in the census, a farm had to have agricultural sales of \$1,000 or more in the census year. Also, "land in farms" does not include land utilized via per-head permits from the governmental owner, as is the case for cattle and sheep grazing for many Idaho ranchers.

There were 25,017 farms and ranches in Idaho in 2002, using nearly 11.8 million acres of land. The land in farms was 22 percent of the state's total land, but a significant 72 percent of the state's land under private ownership. The average farm size was 470 acres, which is approximately three-fourths of a square mile. The value of the agricultural products sold by these farms/ranches was \$3.9 billion in 2002.

There was a decline in the number of farms and land in farms in 2002 compared to the 1997 census. The number of farms declined by 2.2 percent and land in farms by 2.4 percent. The average size of farm remained virtually

the same. Between 1997 and 2002, the market value of agricultural products sold increased by \$520 million, 15.3 percent. However, inflation in that period accounts for 12.1 percent of the actual dollar gain. Adjusting for inflation, the gain was \$457 million, 13.5 percent.

Other things to note from State Table 4:

- Almost one-half (49.2 percent) of Idaho farms are less than 50 acres in size, and both the number of small farms and their percentage share of all farms defined by size increased in 2002 from 1997. This is opposite the national trend, which showed a decline in the number of small farms.
- The number of Idaho large farms, 1,000 acres or more, declined from 1997 to 2002, but the number of the largest farms, 2,000 acres or more, increased slightly. This pattern is echoed in national data.
- Some effects of the multi-year drought are probably reflected in the drop in 2002 from 1997 in the cropland and irrigated land statistics. Both the number of farms and acres in these categories declined. It should be noted there could be other reasons for the decline seen in the census year snapshots of five years apart: crops in normal rotation; land not planted because of conservation and/or farm program set-asides; pre-planting decisions made by farmers with regard to anticipated supply-demand and price dynamics for the crop.
- Idaho farmers are an aging lot. The average age is over 54 years old and this average is the oldest found in the agricultural censuses of 1974 and later. The nation's farmers as a whole are aging, too. The average age of 55.3 is the oldest found since 1974 and is the first time the average exceeded 55 years of age.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture Internet site contains detailed census results for the nation and every state. To access this site, click on: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census>.

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STATE TABLE 4: IDAHO FARM CHARACTERISTICS

All Farms	Measurement Unit	2002	1997
Farms	number	25,017	25,590
Land in farms	acres	11,767,294	12,057,001
Average size of farm	acres	470	471
Est. market value of land and buildings			
Average per farm	dollars	613,303	487,885
Average per acre	dollars	1,270	1,035
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres		4,871	4,320
10 to 49 acres		7,439	6,857
50 to 179 acres		4,917	5,294
180 to 499 acres		3,279	4,016
500 to 999 acres		1,873	2,243
1000 to 1999 acres		1,346	1,604
2000 or more acres		1,292	1,256
Total cropland	farms	18,366	20,485
	acres	6,152,611	6,435,446
Harvested cropland	farms	13,444	16,388
	acres	4,313,288	4,581,227
Irrigated land	farms	15,901	16,683
	acres	3,288,522	3,543,805
Market value of agricultural products sold	\$1,000	3,908,262	3,388,296
Average per farm	dollars	156,224	132,407
Principal operator by primary occupation			
Farming		13,857	12,786
Other		11,160	12,804
Avg. age of principal operator		54.1	52.8
Source: 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Released June 2004			

Seaport Table 2: Projected Employment Opportunities, North Idaho

OCCUPATION	AVERAGE WAGE*	USUAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS
Accountants and auditors	\$17.52	Bachelor's degree
Adjustment clerks	\$9.86	Short-term on-the-job-training
Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate	\$22.69	Postsecondary vocational training
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$13.47	Postsecondary vocational training
Bakers	\$10.19	Long-term on-the-job training
Bill and Account Collectors	\$12.12	Short-term on-the-job training
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$13.11	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Bus drivers, school	\$8.49	Short-term on-the-job-training
Carpenters	\$15.12	Long-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	\$7.14	Short-term on-the-job-training
Child Care Workers	\$7.49	Short-term on-the-job training
Computer Support Specialists	\$13.91	Associate degree
Cooks, restaurant	\$7.33	Long-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	\$11.43	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Dental assistants	\$10.21	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Electrical and electronic technicians and technologists	\$15.97	Associate degree
Electricians	\$19.03	Long-term on-the-job training
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	\$14.26	Short-term on-the-job training
Financial managers	\$24.71	Work experience plus degree
Hand packers and packagers	\$6.87	Short-term on-the-job-training
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	\$14.17	Long-term on-the-job training
Helpers--Carpenters	\$10.62	Short-term on-the-job training
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$12.59	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$9.62	Short-term on-the-job training
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	\$9.51	Short-term on-the-job training
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$14.35	Postsecondary vocational training
Medical and Health Services Managers	\$32.04	Work experience plus bachelor's or higher
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	\$11.93	Associate degree
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	\$8.76	Short-term on-the-job training
Pharmacists	\$33.25	First professional degree
Pharmacy Technicians	\$11.42	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	\$16.67	Long-term on-the-job training
Police patrol officers	\$14.13	Long-term on-the-job training
Production Workers	\$11.77	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Receptionists and information clerks	\$8.80	Short-term on-the-job-training
Recreation Workers	\$9.49	Bachelor's degree
Registered nurses	\$18.89	Associate degree
Security Guards	\$7.78	Short-term on-the-job training
Systems analysts	\$23.37	Bachelor's degree
Teachers and Instructors	\$35,512	Bachelor's degree
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$16.97	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Waiters and Waitresses	\$6.85	Short-term on-the-job training
Welders and cutters	\$11.97	Long-term on-the-job training
*Average wage for 10 northern counties		
SOURCE: Idaho Occupational Employment and Wage Survey, 2004		

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a

total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are five MSAs in Idaho—Boise City-Nampa MSA (including Ada and Canyon Counties), Coeur d'Alene MSA (Kootenai County), Idaho Falls MSA (Jefferson and Bonneville Counties), Lewiston MSA (Nez Perce County in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington), Logan MSA (Franklin County and the Logan, Utah, Metro Area), and Pocatello City (Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

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